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LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER.

MR. JUSTICE MARKBY returned a modest and graceful reply to the address of the Pleaders of the High Court, which we published last week. We make the following extracts from it:

It has been my good fortune during the 12 years that I have sat here to preserve friendly relations with you, and I know that the presentation of such relations is in the highest degree conducive to the good administration of justice as it is also to the comforts of a Judge. We have been daily working together in this exceedingly difficult task imposed upon us. For my own part, I attach much less importance to the form in which the laws are expressed than I do to the manner in which they are administered, but experience teaches us that when the laws of the country are transformed into the hard and inflexible language of a code, the intervention for an Advocate between the Suitor and the Judge becomes more indispensable and his duties more important. I have, therefore, done what little lay in my power to improve legal education and to raise to its highest point the status of the Native Bar. For that Bar, notwithstanding difficulties and dangers which it would be unwise to ignore, and which it is impossible not to foresee, I predict a high future as one of the useful institutions of this country. Gentlemen, it will always be my great pleasure to hear the individual success of those of you with whom I have been associated in the performance of my daily work.

THE HON'BLE JUSTICE LOUIS JACKSON, the acting Chief Justice, who was present when the above mentioned ceremony took place, conveyed in a few humourous words the appreciation of the character and services of "brother Markby" by his colleagues. He said:

When the Judges composing a Division Bench are divided in opinion, it is usual for the junior to begin. I well knew that upon this occasion, I should have to differ in opinion from my learned and hon'ble colleague as to the estimate you have heard him express of his own judicial conduct. It is not easy, you know, to maintain an opposite opinion from my brother Markby, but on this occasion I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have the whole Bar with me, when I overrule one of the most careful Judges that ever sat on the Bench of this Court. I desire to add my emphatic testimony to yours, and I am sorry that in doing so, I express the suffrages of the whole of my colleagues as to the admirable, efficient, conscientious performance of his judicial duties by my colleague whom we are about to lose. He adds [to extensive learning a liberal and enlightened breadth of view, and these gifts were united to a conscientious regard for the interests of justice and the welfare of those who have occasion to come before him. My being here to-day is a coincidence very pleasing to me. When Mr. Justice Markby took his seat more than 12 years ago as a Judge of this Court, he sat besides me, and I am glad to sit beside him now that he attends for the last time.

Well said.

THE INDEFATIGABLE Mr. Dacosta has come out with his comments on the Indian Budget introduced into the House of Commons. Excluding the Guaranteed Railways, he writes, the reproductive works have generally proved "financially unproductive." He says:

For all practical purposes, the State Railways must be considered as "financially unproductive," and, with regard to the irrigation works, they must for the same reason, be classed in the same category. Indeed, many of these works having been in operation for more than ten years, and some for more than twenty years, their character has been ascertained by mature experience, and the financial results of the principal schemes is shown in the Blue Books finance and revenue accounts to have been a loss of £3,014,706 on the 31st March, 1875, which increased to £3,360,907 on the 31st March, 1876, and has continued to increase ever since. Moreover, the area irrigated by the older works is smaller now than it was some years ago. All these circumstances place the unproductive character of our irrigation schemes beyond doubt, and to present them in a different light in the annual Budget can only have the effect of misleading Parliament and the public as to the real condition of the finances of India.

We concur.

THE LIBERATOR, the organ of the Nonconformists, has the following:

In a recent trial in the Divorce Court, the Marquis of Blandford, who is heir to the Duke of Marlborough, and the Earl of Aylesford, appeared under circumstances of a not very reputable character. Now, the Duke of Marlborough is patron of thirteen livings—of which it is to be supposed the Marquis of Blandford, who is now living with the Earl of Aylesford's wife, will one day be the patron. The Earl of Aylesford himself combines with his amusements at Cremorne, the patronage of eight livings. Will the bishops adduce such facts as these in defence of the system of private patronage? Lord Eldon tells us that, when any living in his gift became vacant he was besieged everywhere; one clergyman—of whom he knew nothing—even walking from London to South Dorsetshire to get hold of him in his country retirement. Have the clergy followed Lord Aylesford in a similar manner to Cremorne, or anywhere else that he may have happened to be?

But money does not smell!

A RESULT of the Imperial License Tax. The following advertizement appears in the *Englishman*:

As an Imperial License Tax of Rs. 500 has been demanded of our Agent at Silligoree, owing to our conducting the Palkee service between that Station and Darjeeling, and as the same service has resulted in a loss ever since we undertook it at the request of the former Deputy Commissioner, this is to give notice that on and after the 1st November, such Palkee service will be discontinued.

N. B.—The Palkees are for sale.

LLOYD & CO.,
Proprietors, Calcutta & Darjeeling Carrying Co.

Was the License tax the last straw on the back of the camel?

MADRAS has also been unfortunate in the matter of the License tax. The *Madras Mail* writes:

"About 8,500 persons have been declared liable to the Imperial license tax in the City of Madras, and so erroneous has been the assessment, that it is believed in well-informed quarters that fully 7,000 appeals will be presented for an abatement of the demand. No preparations have yet been made for the consideration and disposal of these appeals, for no special establishment for the collection of the tax has been constituted. The Government are offering a contemptible Rs. 250 per mensem to any senior municipal officer who will take charge of the office of collector of the tax in addition to his other duties, but no one has been tempted to accept so onerous a responsibility. Nothing could be more unbusiness-like than the conduct of the Government in this matter."

The fact is that if a direct tax is to be properly worked the game would not be worth the candle. The expense would greatly absorb the income. This is one reason why a direct tax should not be imposed in India.

TUESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to a Madras contemporary that when Collectors of Districts were called upon to suggest and start famine relief works, most of them recommended and cried out roads. "Consequently, roads may be seen starting from one place and going to no place—roads that will look pretty so long as no traffic goes over them, and no rain falls; roads crossing large drainage areas with paltry outlets for the drainage; roads made over old country tracks, and so made that the traffic avoided them. One road was made perfectly useless, but for a short period which, though under a mile in length, cost over half a lakh of rupees; and some were ploughed up by the villagers before they were completed." And yet there are people, who wonder at the magnitude of the Famine Bill.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE has the following:

"A useful suggestion has been made by a correspondent of one of the London weekly papers to the effect that there should be one currency for the entire British Empire. This does not mean that there should be only one style of coinage, but simply that the English florin should circulate in India at par, while the rupee should pass current in England. To the objection that an Indian rupee is intrinsically worth more than an English florin, it may be answered that the Australian sovereign also is worth more than an English one, and yet no inconvenience has been experienced since it was made by special legislation a legal tender. A simpler plan, though probably an expensive one, would be to have a similar coinage for home, the colonies, and dependencies."

We have been trying to hammer this idea into the English mind for some time past but without success. There is at least now one respectable paper, which considers it practicable.

THE TRADES' ASSOCIATION keep a "character book" for the edification of its members. The Municipality and the Police ought to get copies of it.

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE has at last made a strong foothold in the valley of the Amazon. In 1853, Commander Herndon explored the great river, and its tributaries for the United States Government. The official record, which was published at the time, attracted general attention, and inspired many crude efforts to establish a direct trade between the interior and the ocean, and between Brazil and the United States. This spring has at last put these projects into execution. The Messrs. Collins are building the 180 mile railroad around the rapids of the upper rivers which drain the valley, and will thus establish a direct and cheap freight route from Andes to Para.

THE STATISTICS of immigration to the United States, show that the average annual arrivals for the past twenty-five years amount to about 185,000 persons, or a total of over five and a half millions since 1847. Of these four millions are German and Irish, and about twenty thousand are transient travellers.

A CANADA CHEESE factory has turned out what is claimed to be the largest cheese ever produced. It weighs 7000 pounds, is 6 feet 10 inches in diameter and 21 feet in circumference and required 35 tons of milk from 7000 cows, to produce it. This monster cheese reminds us of oceans of milk and rivers of honey sung of in the Mahabharatha.

CONTINENTAL nations in Europe are rapidly taking advantage of the new sea route to Siberia. Six expeditions left Europe for Tobolsk and Yenessi last month, one being German, one Dutch, one Swedish, one Danish and two Russian from St. Petersburg. But for the probability of war, several expeditions would have also left England for the Siberian rivers, the idea of establishing direct relations with the commercial centres of the great Asiatic dependencies of Russia being favorably regarded by leading London merchants.

AN ENGLISH company has obtained from native rajahs the cession of the northern part of the island of Borneo. The district is known by the name of Sabak, and is about the size of Great Britain. The country is stated to possess great mineral riches, consisting not only of gold and diamonds, but also of iron and coal. The soil is suitable for the cultivation of coffee, and tea has already been grown to some extent by the natives on the hill-sides of the mountains, which are 14,000 feet above the sea level. The forests contain palm and cinnamon trees in profusion. But no one would take the Coco Island off the hands of the Indian Government.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER.

A NEW material for the manufacture of paper has been recently discovered in South America. The parties interested have not given out the secret, but the article is said to grow wild, and to a great height, being, when full grown, taller than a man, and in some cases reaching higher than a man on horseback. It is of a brown color in its natural state but is easily bleached to a pure white. It is said to be stronger than hemp and the samples shown confirm the statement. We have lately seen some specimens of jute thread made of a new fibre in Bengal, which if successful may revolutionize the jute market.

THE LUCKNOW WITNESS gives the following prescription for the cure of ring-worm or *dad*:

Lotion.—One drachm pure sulphate of zinc in one ounce of water.

Ointment.—Eight drops of kreasote mixed in one-half ounce of dilute citrin ointment.

Directions.—Apply the lotion and leave it to dry; then rub in a little of the ointment. . . Application, twice in 24 hours, washing the part well with warm water before each application.

This treatment it is said succeeds in all cases of ring-worm.

PUNCH'S cartoons illustrating the career of Lord Beaconsfield during the last quarter of a century are now published in one collection. It is said that Bismark's daughter has performed a similar office for her illustrious father.

THE INDUS VALLEY State Railway will be open for traffic from Multan to Kotri, 507 miles, October 1st. With Kurrachee but 48 hours from Lahore, Punjaub proper will begin to ask for direct mail and passenger service from Kurrachee to Europe.

IT IS STATED that the Portuguese have formed a company called the "Mozambique Opium Cultivating and Trading Company," with a capital of £178,000 for producing opium for the China market in the Zambesi Valley, E. Africa.

PROF. Knowlton, of San Francisco, spells potato "Ghoughphtheightteeau," according to the following rule: "Gh stands for p, as you'll find from the last letters in hiccough; ough stands for o as in dough; phth stands for t, as phthisis: eigh stands for a, as in neighbor; the stands for t, as in gazette; and eau stands for to as in beau." *Bap re bap!*

BY THE treaty of Berlin, Roumania has 5,149,000 inhabitants, Servia, 1,642,068, Bulgaria 1,773,000; while Turkey in Europe, excluding Bosnia, Herzegovinia, and Eastern Roumelia, has 4,779,000, about half of whom are Mahomedans.

THE HOME NEWS gives a sketch of Lord Northbrook's life, from which we give the following extract:

"As a boy the destined Viceroy of Her Majesty's Indian Empire, gave no pronounced promise of future greatness. He

was a bright amusing lad, fond of field sports, fond of fun, fond of the open air, and perfectly contented to speak no language except his own. He was not idle at school; he was fairly industrious at Oxford. But his prevailing tendency was a disposition to take life easily. It became a question what to do with him, and an offer from a friend of the family, Mr. Labouchere, at that time (1846) President of the Board of Trade, to take him as his private secretary arrived opportunely Mr. Baring set to work with a will, and acquired the reputation of a trustworthy and capable official, who knew well how to combine social pleasures with routine duties. Eminently circumspect in his demeanour, he had a keen capacity for enjoyment, and he did not seek to control it within any very austere bounds. For the next ten years he continued to lead much the same life, doing well all which came to his hands to do, but not displaying the signs of great intellectual calibre. After leaving Mr. Labouchere, he served as Private Secretary to Sir George Grey, at the Home Office and Sir Charles Wood, at the India Board. Gradually the spectacle of ability and application that in the persons of his successive chiefs he saw before him made an impression on his mind, and Mr. Baring was seized with a desire to distinguish himself. He went into Parliament as member for Falmouth. He received the first and conventional instalment of political promotion in his appointment to a lay lordship of the Admiralty. He was transferred to the India Office, and at the India Office he appeared in a new light which astonished his friends. "I begin," said his father about this period to a visitor at Stratton, "I begin really to think we shall make something of Tom. I once thought he would never be anything more than a good whip. But now I see no reason why he should not develop into a Cabinet Minister." Mr. Baring left nothing undone which could merit this opinion. His entre existence was devoted to office. Never had an Indian Under-Secretary with such an insatiable appetite for work been known. As a rule, the Parliamentary Under Secretary does nothing more than represent more or less imperfectly, Indian interests in the House of Commons. But Mr. Baring insisted on personally performing a multitude of purely official duties. He made himself a master of administrative details. He descended to such particulars as to give instructions to the clerks on the subject of the copying of letters and the arrangement of documents. His influence upon the internal and technical business of the India Office survives visibly to this day.

He was still an Under-Secretary of State—this time at the War Office—when the news of Lord Mayo's assassination arrived. He had gone to the War Office, when Mr. Gladstone came into place and power, as Mr. Cardwell's subordinate, not indeed with satisfaction, but with resigned equanimity and a determination to make the best of it. He was a peer, and inasmuch as the number of peers who are possible in the Cabinet is strictly limited, he was heavily weighted in the race for high political promotion. But such good work as Lord Northbrook did at the War Office was quite sure to meet with recognition and reward. The times were exacting, and Lord Northbrook rose to their level. He had just won for himself by the speech in which he introduced the Abolition of Purchase Bill, and the manner in which he subsequently defended the measure, the highest praise of his colleagues, when the lamentable death of Lord Mayo occasioned a vacancy in the Viceroyship of India.

Lord Northbrook was then appointed Viceroy and Governor General of India, and the reader knows all that is worth to be known about his Indian career.

THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Sherepore in the Bograh district says: "The second flood in this quarter has nearly completed the ruin brought about by the first. Two such floods within a few days of each other have snatched away from the struggling poor the last straw upon which they rested their hope. The cultivators had made some arrangements to tide over the damage and loss sustained by them from the first, but the work of transplanting the seedlings has become hopeless and their future is very gloomy. Great praise is due to Babu Radharamon Munshi, a public-spirited and enterprising zemindar of this place, for his exertions in affording relief to the distressed. He sent boats all round to make a house-to-house visitation for enquiring into the wants of the people and giving them supplies. Crowds of people assemble every morning at his door and they are served with rations."

A MADARIPORE Correspondent informs us that the estates of the zemindars of Kataliparah now under the management of one Mr. Owens, are on the arrear list and likely to be knocked off at the next sale. The rental Rs. 40,000 per annum, and the Government revenue is Rs. 1,200 only. And yet the manager has managed to put the estate in arrear!

WE TAKE from the London papers the following Parliamentary intelligence relating to India:

THE SALT TAX IN INDIA.

Mr. E. Stanhope, in answer to Sir G. Balfour, said; The House has already ordered upon the motion of the hon. member for Kirkcaldy, a return of any papers relating to the changes in the salt duty made in December last. As regards the reduction in Northern India, we have at present no papers, but I hope to have an opportunity of giving an explanation to-morrow. With respect to the first statement made by my noble friend the Vice-President of the Council in his financial statement last year, I would refer the hon. and gallant member to a speech of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Ashley Eden, in the Legislative Council, on Dec. 27, 1877, in which he described Bengal as advancing rapidly in wealth, and its peoples as "the most lightly taxed in all India" As to the second quotation made by the hon. and gallant member, I can only say that it is a point which it is impossible to prove absolutely, and which must be more or less a matter of opinion. But if the statement should be challenged, I am very confident that my noble friend would give to the House very good reasons for it.

DECCAN RIOTS COMMISSION.

Aug. 13.—Mr. E Stanhope, in answer to Mr. Grant Duff, said; The report of the Deccan Riots Commission, with the minutes appended, is very long, but it is in the printer's hands, and will, I hope, be distributed in a fortnight. The report relates only to the districts of Poona and Ahmednuggur, containing an area of 12,000,000 square miles, and a population of 1,680,000. It would be a mistake to assume from this report that a similar state of things has been shown to exist in other parts of India. Legislation based on this report has been proposed by the Government of Bombay, and has been pressed upon the attention of the Viceroy by the Secretary of State. We have lately heard, but without any details, that the Government of India has introduced a bill which they hope will remedy some of the very grave evils which have been shown to exist.

WE LEARN that Dr. Sourindro Mohan Tagore has been elected *socio onorario* of the Royal Academy of Palermo and has also received the diploma of *Benemerito* of the Royal University of Parma.

THE PIONEER has reasons to believe that the annexation of Scinde to the Punjab will now very shortly be accomplished. Some heads of departments in the Punjab have already been warned to prepare for taking over the corresponding departments in the territory to be transferred.

FRIDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER.

WE MAKE the following extract from the reply of Mr. Justice Markby to the Graduates' Address:

Gentlemen, of the thousands of young men who enter upon life through the gates of the University, a very large number are no doubt failures. Where I should like to know is the society of men that does not contain many members of whom we can only say that we wonder why they were born, and by pointing to those failures and charging them all upon our education it is easy to make a good case against us. But gathering our conclusions from a wide and general experience I feel perfect confidence in the result of what has been done and what we are doing. I have not in this matter trusted to my own somewhat narrow experience. I have carefully consulted men of all descriptions acquainted with all parts of India and I cannot recall the expression of a single doubt by a qualified man that the Natives of this country are, taken upon the whole, honester, wiser and better men for the English education which has been imparted to them.

Gentlemen, to every one who considers what sort of revolution is effected when the leading intellects of a nation are turned into a new channel, it is a matter of little surprise that all is not smooth and easy sailing. In the upheaving of society that is now going on we must expect to encounter many a storm, and sometimes just when we think we are in perfect safety to find ourselves on a shoal of hidden dangers. Many of you must have already felt that your very education itself is a danger to you in loosening old ties, cutting off old associations, and casting you as it were adrift on the troubled surface of life. I was glad, therefore, to learn that the graduates of our University had formed themselves into a society, the special objects of which I do not precisely know, but which, if properly managed, is sure to be productive of good. Far be it from me to say of such societies that they fully replace the less artificial combinations of social and family life. But they impose upon their members as a condition of success, the exercise of a portion at least of the higher social qualities; self restraint, respect for the opinion of others, the bringing of the conduct of each member before the collective judgment of the whole body are the characteristics of every association of men whatever be their object. Without them every association must eventually fall to pieces as soon as it is formed.

WE ARE sincerely sorry to record the death of Babu Shoshendranath Tagore, the eldest grandson of the late Maharaja Romanath Tagore. He was suffering for a long time from complicated diseases, and had lately proceeded to Etwah for change of air, where he suddenly expired on Tuesday last. He was a young man of much intelligence and very amiable disposition. His untimely death is regretted by a large circle of relatives and friends.

THE TOTAL amount of 5½ percent. loan transferred to transfer loan of 1879, is 4½ per cent. portion Rs. 6,96,38,000 and seven shillings per cent portion 1,72,000 rupees. Mofussil transfers are not yet all known, only one lakh and sixty-eight thousand transferred to seven shillings per cent. portion. In England three millions out of five millions have been tendered for transfer. The Government will have to raise a fresh loan to pay off the sum not tendered for transfer.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR has safely reached Darjeeling. His Honor had a somewhat troublesome journey over bridges and flooded roads.

NEWS has been received of the arrival of the Nawab Gholam Hasan Khan, at Cabul, on the 10th. He was hospitably received and entertained on the road, and at Cabul, and on the 12th had a private interview with the Amir, at which he delivered the Viceroy's letters. The Mir Akhor is believed to be the bearer of the Amir's instructions regarding the mission, and is hourly expected at Ali Musjid. The mission is at Peshawur awaiting the Mir Akhor's communication. The Khyberi headmen are at Peshawur.

THE RESOLUTION of the Bengal Government on the Bhaugulpore Commissioner's report has the following: "The most alarming feature of the season was the outbreak of malarious fever in Maldah, which is said to have lasted from the beginning of September to the end of January, to have affected no less than one thousand villages, or nearly two-fifths of the entire district, and to have caused 22,000 deaths." Who is responsible for this tremendous death-rate? If a correct census could be taken of the fever districts of Burdwan and Hooghly, it would give a still higher rate of mortality. And yet nothing is done to arrest this death-march!

AN EAST INDIAN youth and his mother stand charged at the Police Court of Calcutta with the death of a cartman. Strange to say that they have been enlarged on bail!

SATURDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER.

WE ARE glad to notice that the working of the Calcutta Municipality is receiving the attention of our morning contemporaries. We do not hesitate to say that if the executive had a good efficient head, the elective system would have proved triumphantly successful. The elected Commissioners have worked manfully, though as the *Indian Daily News* justly remarks, they would have received material strength if they had had the co-operation and support of independent Europeans. May not these be yet induced to come in when the next election takes place, supposing that Sir Ashley Eden allows the corporation to survive the first term of its existence?

IT IS stated that the Viceroy may not return to Calcutta till the middle of December next. His Excellency may pay a flying visit to Gwalior and Hyderabad.

THE DELHI GAZETTE says that the Nawab Nazim of Bengal had a narrow escape from serious injury while walking in Gracechurch-street one day last month. In crossing the road he was knocked down by a butcher's cart, the wheels of which passed over one of his legs. His Highness received some contusions, but he is now convalescent. The driver of the horse and cart was stopped by those who witnessed the accident, but the Nawab generously exonerated him from blame.

ACCORDING to the last weather and crop report of Bengal, for the week ending the 16th September, heavy rain has caused more floods and some damage to the crops in parts of the Rajshahye division, Kuch Behar and Maimansing, whilst in parts of Midnapur, Shahabad, Puri and Balasor more rain than is wanted. The prospects on the whole, however, continue excellent, and in a few districts, especially in Behar, prices have begun to fall.

DR. WOOD, who was here some years ago but now at Michigan, informs the *Englishman* that by a will dated August 28, 1849, a French gentleman named Breant left to the Paris Academy of Sciences the sum of $80,000, to be awarded as a prize to any person who should discover a cure for Asiatic cholera, or the cause of the disease. The interest on this sum has been annually bestowed upon various competitors who have been adjudged worthy by reason of their contributions to the advancement of medical science; but the great prize has never been awarded. Dr. Wood has been a competitor for the prize and thus gives his opinion about the origin of cholera:

The cause of the disease is passive congestion originating positive irritation. The blood accumulates in vessels which retain their healthy excitability, and stimulates these vessels into excessive action. The congestion occurs in the postal system of veins, and is dependent upon a depressed condition of the capillary circulation of the liver; the venous rediciles in the intestinal mucous membrane share in the congestion and are unable to receive the blood from the arterial radicles and capillaries, which, therefore, become distended and irritated. This irritation relieves itself by profuse secretion: severe and exhausting serous discharges result, which, with the attending phenomena, constitute Asiatic cholera.

He considers the bromide of ammonium the best remedy for the disease. The bromide of ammonium, the doctor writes, may be dissolved in the proportion of one ounce of the salt to four ounces of water. Of this solution a drachm or ordinary tea spoonful may be administered sufficiently diluted in any stage of the disease, at any interval from five minutes, to four or six hours. If so administered during the period of malaise, or cholerine, which precedes the choleraic attacks proper, it will ward off and prevent the latter.

THE BOMBAY BILL for the purpose of prohibiting inoculation, and for rendering vaccination in Kurrachee compulsory, has been approved by the Secretary of State.

THE RUSSIAN journals are boasting that with Batoum and Kars in the possession of the Czar, the Asiatic provinces of Turkey are his own whenever he chooses to take them. It is not an empty boast. There is good reason for it.

WE OWE an apology to Mr. Daniel, author of the "Student's Guide," for delay in noticing his excellent work. His "Guide" is not a mere sign-post, but a living, moving, entertaining and instructive guide. The Indian Student cannot have a better companion than Mr. Daniel in ploughing the field of English literature. We commend him heartily to Indian youths engaged in English study as a safe and trusty guide.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE with thanks the receipt of the following publications and periodicals:—1. Kayastha Purana, Part I. By Soshibhuson Nundi. Published by Brojendrakumar Roy Chowdry. 2. Bengal Magazine, for Septemper 1878. 3. Paricharika for Assin. 4. A Short Essay on the Vernacular Papers. By Rajanikant Gupta. 5. Petition of the

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Vernacular Press Act Committee regarding the Vernacular Press Act Amendment Bill. 6. Report on the Epidemic of Cholera of 1875 and 1876 in the Central Provinces, by Surgeon Major S. C. Townsend, F. U. C. Sanitary Commissioner, Central Provinces, with charts. 7. Annual Report of the Emigration Department for 1877-78.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following teiegrams of the week :

London 16th September.—Mr. Rivers Wilson has been authorised by the English Government to accept the Egyptian Ministry of Finance.

16th.—The *Morning Post* strongly protests against the Indian Government delaying the misson to Cabul, or accepting any promises from Persia, that she will not interfere in Afghanistan. The *Times*, in an article on the armies of our feudatory Princes in India, advocates their incorporation as a wing of the Indian Army.

18th.—The *Standard* recommends solving the Afghanistan problem by making the Hindoo Koosh, including Southern Afghanistan, under direct or indirect British rule, the frontier of India. The *Advertiser* thinks that Lord Lytton's policy deserves the entire support of the British Government.

19—The envoy from the Ameer has arrived at Constantinople. The transport *Euphrates* has sailed for Bombay.

19.—The proposal made by Germany to the signatary powers of the Berlin Treaty to induce the Porte to execute the stipulations of the treaty, has been abandoned. Three Indians have obtained awards at the Oriental Congress at Florence.

20th.—Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Chief Secretary for Ireland, speaking at York deprecated the aspirations of Greece to an extension of frontier, and said that Europe would scarcely tolerate a revival of the Eastern question through the inordinate ambition of Greece. News has been received that Khudayar, ex-Khan of Khokand, has fled to Kabul. The 102nd Royal Madras Fusiliers from Gibraltar will relieve the 57th Foot in Ceylon. Consols yesterday closed at 95⅛. Since Monday large amounts of 5½ per cent Indian loan have been tendered for conversion at the India Office, which have been declined.

21st.—A Royal Warrant has been issued regulating the promotion and retirement of the officers of the late Indian Army now belonging to the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers and the new line Regiments. The *Morning Advertiser* states that Russian Government has adandoned the project of establishing a Russian Diplomatic Agent at Kabul. The transfer of the 101st Regiment to the Straits Settlsment is cancelled in consequence of the large amount of sickness in Cyprus among the troops. The Maharaja of Johore has returned to Singapore. Consols yesterday closed at 95

Constantinople 15th September.—The Russians have evacuated Erzeroum, and the Austrians have taken the offensive along the River Save, where the insurgents are strongly entrenched.

16th.—Midhat Pacha has been authorised to reside in the Island of Crete. There has been severe fighting between the Austrians and insurgents at Bihax, where the insurgents are strongly entrenched. The Austrian loss there is 495. The Austrians are about to bombard the position.

Berlin 16th September.—In to-days sitting of the German Parliament there was a debate upon the Antisocialist Bill. Count Stolberg, the Government representative in Prince Bismarcks absence, demanded that effectual powers be granted for the repression of socialism. The Ultramontance leaders and socialist members opposed the measure.

17th.—The German Parliament has referred the Anti-Socialist Bill to Committee.

Vienna, 18th September.—The advance of the Austrians in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues unchecked, in spite of the resistance offered on all sides. The Austrians have occupied, Graduchatz, and the insurgents have abandoned Gracanitza and fallen back on Tuzla. On the 17th the Austrians captured Novibizka after desperate fighting on both sides.

19th.—The Bosnian insurgents at Bihas have surrendered to the Austrians unconditionally.

20th.—An Austrian official despatch announces that the province of Herzegovina is completely pacified.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, to-morrow Evening at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Volta Electric Induction and Magneto Electricity.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1878.

THE KABUL WAR—WHO IS TO PAY?

SHOULD there be a war with Kabul, it would be entirely due to English statesmanship. The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* gives a string of the grievances of the Amir of Kabul against the British Government. Up to 1869 the relations between the Amir and our Government were friendly. In that year the Amir attended the durbar at Umballa, and was much pleased with his reception, though he did not get what he wanted, *viz.*, an offensive and defensive alliance with the British Government. As the Calcutta Correspondent of the *Times* says, "a gradual estrangement arose from that date which culminated in 1876 in the complete severance of political relations and removal from Cabul by the Indian Government of the Native agent. The main reasons which have induced the feeling of animosity in the Amir's mind are first and foremost the Seistan Arbitration in 1871. Under the advice of a British officer acting as arbitrator, it was arranged that a large slice of territory in dispute between Persia and Kabul should be yielded to Persia. This gave great offence to the Amir. Unfortunately, most experienced political officers consider the award to be had, and the Amir's irritation fully justified. Again in 1873 the Amir's envoy received repellent treatment. A further cause of the Amir's displeasure was the remonstrance with him by the Government in 1874 for his treatment of Yakub Khan, while he received expressions of sympathy from Russia in the matter. What still further increased the coldness and exasperated him possibly more than even the Seistan award was the fact of the Government sending a mission and presents direct to the ruler of Wakhan. This the Amir construed into an intentional ignoring of his suzerainty. For the five years preceding the present Governor-Generalship, the Government persistently followed out a chilling and repellent policy, while unfortunately Russia trimmed her sails in a very different way, and studiously watched and ministered to every fitful whim and suspicion of the Amir's violent and capricious temper." All this is true, but one thing the *Times'* Correspondent does not say. This "chilling and repellent policy" was due entirely to "orders from home." Mr. Gladstone was deluded by the smooth words and glib promises of Russia, and would not take any active measures to secure British prestige in Affghansthan. He was lulled into sleep, and in the meantime Russia has stolen a march over England. She has gradually insinuated her way into Affghan favour, till she has placed herself almost in the position of dictator to Affghansthan. Russian success in the court of Kabul is best measured by the hostility shewn by the Amir to our Government. The first pronounced unfriendly act of the Amir, as the *Times'* Correspondent remarks, was the refusal to permit Sir Douglas Forsyth to pass through his territories when returning from Kashgar. In addition to this, he refused to allow British officers to visit any portion of his frontiers. Then came the Peshwar conference to which the Amir had given an unwilling consent, and which ultimately ended in a fiasco. The hostilities in Europe for a time caused a cessation in British negociations with Kabul, but no sooner was the Berlin Treaty signed, and the British Plenipotentiaries returned with the announcement—"we bring Peace!"—than the news came that Russia had deputed a Mission to Kabul, which has secured a secret treaty of alliance with the Amir. Strange to say that our Government had not the slightest inkling of the Russian Mission to Kabul. The *Times* pertinently remarks: "It is to be hoped the Governor General's Council has been more vigilant than appearances would suggest; but no evidence at present is forthcoming to show that the Calcutta Foreign office was in the least aware of the Russian Mission before its actual reception at Cabul. Not the Mission itself so much as the facility such secrecy proves the Central Asian Government to possess for devising, and in part accomplishing, a new policy without raising the least suspicion in Calcutta is what is really formidable. Russia has joined hands with Shere Ali diplomatically, yet not even a bazar rumour of the arduous and difficult journey of a fully-equipped Mission with an armed escort penetrated to British India. Had the cloud which hovered so long over Russian and British relations burst in a tempest of war, it is open to alarmists to argue that India might have first heard its echo in a descent of a Russo-Afghan army on to Peshawur." Be that as it might, it could not be denied that the hands of the Government of India were paralized under the benumbing influence of the Imperial Government. Now that Russia is almost knocking at the gates of India the British Lion has roused himself and threatens a bloody war. Supposing that the war should come, the question is, who is to pay? A war with Kabul will not be a contemptible affair, and if Russia pulls the wire from behind, it may prove a troublesome and protracted job. The cost of such a war will be heavy, and should the exhausted treasury of India be saddled with it? England has had ample evidence of late that India is poor, that she cannot pay her way, that she is loaded with debt and deficit, that taxes cannot be increased upon her without producing the greatest hardship and suffering, and if she be called upon to pay the bill for the threatened Kabulwar, it will break her back altogether. It is, therefore, highly necessary that an understanding should be come to previously as to who is to pay for the coming Kabul war. If the war be undertaken, it will be to meet the exigencies of England's policy in the East, and why should not the cost of it be borne by the imperial treasury? It should be borne in mind that England has not paid a penny in acquiring her magnificent dominion in India; it was the Indian exchequer, which had hitherto met the cost of England's campaigns in the East. Not only that, but India paid for England's wars in China and British Burma, and for her political negociations in Persia. India also pays for her own defences, and pays very tightly too, so much so that her deficits are mainly due to the inequitable principle on which the Home Military Charges of India are based. Will England still pursue the same inequitable and unrighteous policy—the rifling the Indian treasury for purposes of her imperial policy in the East? We hope not. We hope Lord Lytton will not embark on a war with Kabul without first coming to an understanding as to liability. We look up to him as the appointed guardian of India for the protection of our national exchequer.

THE INLAND CUSTOMS LINE.

THE Inland Customs line which was formed in 1843-44, and has been extended at various times, now reaches from Torbeila on the Attock, in the Punjab, to the Mahanuddy in the Sumbhulpore District of the Central Provinces. It is 2,472 miles in length, and is manned by 10,496 officers and men. In the Central Provinces, in addition to protecting the Imperial Revenue, the line leaving the Central Provinces near Mulkapore skirts the western side of the Berars and enters the Central Provinces again at Chanda, thus likewise protecting the salt revenue of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts. Prior to January 1870, this line existed as a loop-line, but it has now been incorporated with the Central Provinces line, a considerable portion of which has in consequence been abolished, and a corresponding saving in expenditure effected. Irrespective of these lines, local salt works were opened in the rear of the line in Oude and in North-Western Provinces in the Jounpore District; and the Inland Customs Department in February 1870 assumed charge of a portion of the Sambhar Lake belonging conjointly to the States of Jaipore and Jodhpore. A force designated the Internal Branch also exists in Oude and the North-Western Provinces for the fostering and protection of the saltpetre trade, for the levy of duty on the salt educed in the process of refining saltpetre, for the supervision and control of the manufactures of saline substances, such as Khari-noon, &c., which, if unsupervised, are capable of causing vast injury to the Imperial Revenue, and for the suppression of illicit manufacture of salt within British territory. The whole Inland Customs Department in the Punjab, North-Western Provinces, Oude, the Central Provinces, Berar, aad Rajpootana, is administered by the Commissioner of Inland Customs, who is under the Government of India, but is immediately responsible to the respective Local Governments and Administrations within whose jurisdiction the customs organization is established. The duties levied on the line are on imports of salt and exports of sugar. On salt there are at present two rates of duty, *viz.*, a full or three rupees rate on all salts except those entering the Central Provinces from Bombay and Madras, on which at the places of manufacture a duty of Re. 1-13 was levied prior to the late enhancement of duty. The general rates of duty on Rajpootana and Bhurtpore salts have been as follows:—Re. 1-8 and Rs. 2 from 1843-44 to 1845-46, Rs. 2 from 1846-47 to a date in December 1859, Rs. 2-8 from December 1859 to a date in March 1861, Rs. 3 from March 1861 to the present time, with the following exceptions, *viz.*, in the Sirsa division of the Punjab section, the duty was 8 annas a maund for a part of 1843-44, when it was raised to Re. 1 per maund, at which figure it remained till a date in 1846-47, when the duty was equalized

with that generally levied. In the Saugor division of the Central Provinces section, a lesser rate of Re. 1-8 a maund prevailed from the formation of the division in 1855-56 till the introduction of the general rate in 1859-60. In the Hoshungabad section, also formed in 1855-56, Re. 1 a maund was levied until a date in 1859-60, and thereafter Re. 1-8 until the general rate was introduced in 1860-61. The duty on Madras and Bombay salts entering the Central Provinces was levied from the outset, until the intermediate increase by five annas at Re. 1-8 per maund. The general rates of sugar duty have been as follows:

	Per Maund.	
	On Refined Sugar.	*On Unrefined Sugar.*
From 1843-44 to 1859-60 ...	8 annas.	3 annas.
For 1860-61 ...	8 annas and 1 Re.	3 annas and 6 annas.
From 1861-62 to 1868-69 ...	1 Rupee	6 annas.

The salt duties levied in the Punjab are included in the account of the receipts of the Inland Customs Department. The customs line in the Punjab for the levy of salt duty runs through the Sirsa, Hansi, Rohtuck, and Goorgaon districts, beginning at Fazilka on the Sutlej, and ending at Hodul on the border of the Muttra district in the N. W. Provinces. There are further two preventive lines in the Punjab which do not collect duty on salt, are *purely* preventive—one, the Sutlej Preventive line, barring the importation into the Punjab of Bheekaneer and Sind salt, but levying a tax on sugar; the other, the Indus Preventive line, stopping the influx of untaxed or Trans-Indus salt. Besides these there are establishments at the Kohat Salt Mines for the levy of a duty of 4, 3 or 2 annas a maund on salt there excavated, and in the Sind, Saugor Doab and the Kalabagh Mines for the levy of the duty of Rs. 3 a maund on salt excavated in those mines. This last-mentioned salt is consumed in the Punjab, and more or less throughout the N. W. Provinces and Oude. The duty on it was Rs. 2 per maund from 1849-50 to 20th April 1860, and Rs. 2-2 a maund from 21st April 1860 to 19th September 1861; since then the duty has stood at its present rate of Rs. 3 a maund. Since the 4th July 1870 one anna per maund has been charged as the cost price of the salt in addition to the duty. Since the 1st of April 1870 the whole of the Salt and Customs Department in the Punjab have been, without exception, placed under the charge of the Commissioner of Inland Customs.

Such is the history of the Indian Customs line which we glean from official records. The Government has already abolished it by about 800 miles in Southern India. Referring to it Lord Lytton in his speech of February last remarked: "So long as this country was destitute of railroads, the inconvenience of a salt-duty, assessed at different rates in different provinces, was not seriously felt. The cost and difficulty of carriage prevented the lower taxed salts of one province from displacing the higher taxed salts of another; but when intercommunication had been greatly cheapened and accelerated by steam, then special measures became necessary for redressing or preventing the mischievous effects of these inequalities in the salt-duties. Thus, an inland customs-line was maintained solely to prevent salt taxed in Bombay at rupee 1-13 per maund from entering Bengal, where the salt-duty was levied at rupees 3 and rupees 3-4 per maund; and when that part of the customs-line was abolished in 1874, then other measures were devised for the same purpose, an increased freight or mileage-duty being levied on all salt carried by rail from Bombay into the Central Provinces. I need not here refer to the great customs-line so frequently and eloquently denounced by my hon'ble friend, Sir John Strachey, which still, unfortunately, exists for the sole purpose of intercepting, many miles from its sources of supply, the untaxed salt of Rajputana, and prohibiting its entry into British territory. I share the opinion of my hon'ble friend that the continued maintenance of this line is a great commercial and political scandal; and I sincerely trust that the history of the present administration may be associated with the removal of that scandal."

The wish expressed by Lord Lytton was reasonable and just, and his Lordship has already realized it. But at what sacrifice? His Lordship has surrendered a clear revenue of 30 lakhs of rupees, and has in addition imposed an odious and oppressive direct tax in the shape of the License tax. The *Englishman* called upon us the other day to give our figures in support of our position that there has been a sacrifice of revenue. We gladly respond to the call of our contemporary. We have not before us later Finance and Revenue Accounts, Part III., than those for 1874-75, but the figures of that year will quite answer our purpose. The salt revenues of Northern India are thus given in this volume:

Gross Revenue.

Year.	Bengal.	N.W.P.	Punjab.	Administration under the Govt. of India.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1874-75.	2,643,361	476,608	842,258	103,781	4,070,008
		Net Revenue.			
1874-75.	2,643,766	417,972	763,986	23,602	3,802,122
				Difference ..	£ 267,881

The difference between gross income and net income is about 26 lakhs of rupees, which represents the cost of the collection of the salt revenue including the Customs Line. We may however put the cost in round number at 30 lakhs, which balances the gain from the enhancement of the salt duty in Southern India estimated at 30 lakhs. But the reduction of the salt duty in Bengal Proper involves a loss of about 30 lakhs, each anna of the duty being equal to 5 lacs of rupees. This is a clear and positive loss. And yet it is urged that the lowering of the duty has entailed no actual loss! On the other hand the salt duty, said Lord Lytton in February, had been enhanced in Southern India, because no famine taxation had been imposed upon the agricultural population there. Taking this view of the case, we submit that if the duty had not been lowered in Northern India, there would have been notwithstanding the cost of the Inland Customs Line another sum of thirty lacs of rupees to the credit of the Treasury, which added to the sum lost in Bengal Proper, would have gone a great way to cover the sum expected from the License tax. It would be thus seen that if the salt tax had not been tampered with there would have been no necessity for imposing the License tax. Hence we argue that it is the new salt policy of the Government of India, which has necessitated additional taxation. And admitting that both the Customs Line and the License Tax are evils, may we ask, which is the greater evil? To the first the people have been accustomed, with the last they are not familiar. The first notwithstanding the vast area it covers is still limited in extent, but the last spreads over the whole continent of India. The first is productive, while the hardships and oppressions to which the people will necessarily be subjected on account of the last will far outweigh its financial return. So all things considered, the new salt policy, followed as it has been by a heavy direct tax, is most injudicious and impolitic.

THE STAMP BILL.

Mr. Cockerell has presented the report of the Select Committee on the Amended Stamp Bill. The first noticeable improvement in the Amended Bill is the separation of the Judicial and Commercial Stamps. Mr. Cockerell was strongly in favour of a combination, which he had made in his original Bill, but he has been obliged to give in to the majority of the Select Committee. This is a concession to reason, on which we congratulate Mr. Cockerell. With regard to the details of the Bill he said that he had corrected a principal defect in the original bill, which was too much dependence placed on criminal prosecutions for neglect to duly stamp an instrument. He said that "there were, it might well be conceived, a very large number of cases in which the neglect to use the proper stamp involved no great criminality, and in regard to which Collectors would be found unwilling to send the offenders before a Magistrate. The revised Bill contains provisions in sections thirty-five and thirty-eight by which Civil Courts were required to realize a much larger fine than that fixed by the former ere unstamped or improperly stamped documents could be admitted in evidence, and Collectors are empowered to levy within certain fixed maximum and minimum limits a similar penalty in respect of instruments sent to or otherwise coming before them, and not being "duly stamped." The modification of the criminal prosecution clauses is decidedly an improvement, but the increase of fine from four to ten times the deficient duty is too much. Deficient stamp is not always due to a desire to defraud the revenue; it not unfrequently arises from ignorance, and the heavy penalty prescribed will prove a serious hardship to many innocent persons. With regard to the schedule of duties the principle it would seem has been to lower duties for instruments in which Europeans are more generally interested, and to raise them for those in which natives are interested. Thus in cases of bills of exchange the duties have been lowered, but the same for bonds and conveyances have been considerably increased compared with the former scale. There is a large class of instruments executed by Tea and other Joint Stock Companies, which are usually called agreements to mortgage. A concern with say 20 lakhs of rupees may be mortgaged; no regular mortgage is drawn up but a memorandum is executed; it has to all intents and purposes the effect of a mortgage; money is advanced upon it, and when repayment is made a receipt stamp is given. Now, if an agreement to lease is subject to the same duty as a lease, why should not an agreement or memorandum of mortgage be subject to the same duty as a mortgage. The Government we know is a considerable loser in consequence of the loophole left by the law. The instrument of apprenticeship we observe is for the first time brought under the stamp duty? Apprenticeship of the kind known in England is rare in this country and if persons wish to apprentice themselves in trades, they ought to be encouraged, but this provision will put an unnecessary bar in their way. For the same reason we do not think that the heavy stamp duties prescribed for admission of a person as an articled clerk to an attorney, for enrolment as an attorney, and as an advocate are fair or reasonable. On public grounds both the Government and the community at large wish that our educated men should take to independent professions. But the Legislature is going to put a heavy embargo upon this movement. It is true that the enrolment of a person as an attorney is already subject to a stamp-fee of Rs. 500, which has been now divided into two, viz. Rs. 250 for admission as an articled clerk, and Rs. 250 for enrolment as an attorney. As for the pleaders of the High Court they were subject to a very small fee on enrolment, and the Barristers were subject to no admission fee. It would be very hard if this heavy admission fee were retained for pleaders and barristers. It might be said that the bar is already so much overstocked that it is not desirable to crowd it more. We admit that the bar is already crowded, but if the profession does not pay, persons wishing to enter it will of themselves abstain from it. But is it good policy on the part of Government to check resort to independent professions? The enrolment of a person as a High Court pleader does not nowadays pay, but it carries some advantages. In the first place a High Court pleader always commands a prestige in the Mofussil Courts. In the second place he can plead in all district courts throughout the Bengal Presidency. In the third place if he is snubbed in a Mofusil court he can always evoke the protection of the High Court. This is the reason why our law graduates are anxious to enrol themselves as Pleaders of the High Court. The Court has laid down stringent rules for enrolment of persons as pleaders of the High Court. A law graduate must either practise in the Mofusil District Court for four years or serve as an apprentice to some pleader of the High Court for two years. The rules thus impose sufficient restriction upon indiscriminate admission of persons as pleaders of the High Court, and it is not therefore reasonable to put a heavy embargo upon it in the shape of a high stamp duty. We hope the stamp duties upon admission into the legal profession will be revoked. Hitherto an instrument of gift was charged with a stamp fee of Rs. 16, but in this bill it has been provided that the duty for a deed of gift shall be as for a conveyance, that is to say for a consideration equal to the value of the

property mentioned in such instrument. Now, gifts are made from affection or from religious or charitable motives, and it is not fair that the exercise of the benevolent instincts of the people should be heavily handicapped by stamp duties. The principle of the stamp duty is regulated by consideration paid, but as no consideration passes in the case of gift it is meet that either deeds of gift should be exempted or subjected to a small fee as before. In the same way settlements for religious or charitable purposes ought to be subjected to a nominal fee. Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore in signing the report of the Select Committee says: "I fail to see the reason why settlements made for religious and charitable purposes should not come under the same head as family settlements. Considering the laudable objects for which the former are intended, they ought not, in my opinion, to be charged with a higher rate of stamp duty than the latter." Mr. Cockerell thus notices this point in his speech in presenting the report of the Select Committee:

"The term "settlement" had in the former Bill been described as including "assurances for religious and charitable purposes," but in its technical sense it applied only to depositions of property made in contemplation of marriage. Such depositions did not operate as absolute transfers, but were designed to take effect on some more or less remote contingency, and in this respect they might be said to resemble simple mortgages, and were reasonably charged with stamp-duty at the same rate as the latter instruments. Assurances for religious purposes on the other hand operated as conveyances, taking immediate effect, and they were properly classed with deeds of gift. It was a mistake to have included these instruments in the category of settlements when a special and different rate of duty had been imposed on instruments of gift.

He would not have thought this change of sufficient importance to call for special comment had not one of their hon'ble colleagues, a member of the Select Committee, recorded his dissent to the manner in which this item had been treated. His hon'ble friend had not based his objection to the provisions of the Bill in regard to this subject as creating an innovation on the existing law and practice, and this was a point deserving notice; for he (Mr. Cockerell) believed—although a place in the settlement-class of documents was now claimed for these assurances—that at the present time when "deeds of settlement" were subject to duty and "instruments of gift" were not so liable, instruments creating an endowment for religious or charitable purposes were invariably held to be, and treated as, "deeds of gift!"

We have already said that under the existing law deeds of gift were not treated as conveyances, and if the same principle had been retained in the present bill, and settlements of religious or charitable purposes had been made subject to the same duty, there would have been no objection. Mr. Cockerell is inconsistent in his remarks. He had said immediately before that "an exemption had been provided in favour of all payments when made gratuitously." The exemption is given because no consideration passses in such cases. The same reason we are of opinion applies to settlements for religious or charitable purposes, because no consideration passes in such cases. Under the head of exemptions occurs the following clause: "Lease, patta, kabuliyat or other undertaking to cultivate, occupy or pay rent for land granted to or by a cultivator without the payment or delivery of any fine or premium when a definite term is expressed and such term does not exceed one year, or when the annual rent reserved does not exceed Rs. 100." Under the existing law all agricultural leases irrespective of period and amount are exempted from the stamp duty, but the present Bill limits the period to one year and the rent to Rs. 100 annually. This we submit is not fair, if the object of Government be not to further tax the agricultural population. The only objection taken to the present law is that it does not clear up as to who is and who is not a cultivator. A rich jotedar may claim exemption under the clause. But the ruling of the Board has cleared up the point. It says that any person, who cultivates the land with his own hands or by hired labour or follows the profession of an agriculturalist is a cultivator. If the Select Committee thought that there was loss of revenue from the indefinite provision of the law they might have made it definite. But they have done nothing of the kind; they have not defined a cultivator, but have simply limited the extent of exemption. This we consider is not fair. Let the cultivator be defined but let the old exemption be continued. We stop here for the present.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE ON RAILWAY FRAUDS.

Sir Richard Temple has come forward boldly to expose and correct Railway frauds in the Bombay Presidency. He appointed a Commission to enquire into and report upon those frauds. In a minute upon the report of the Commission Sir Richard says: "When during the autumn of 1877, that is during the extreme prevalence of scarcity and consequent activity of the grain trade we found the grain robberies on the north-western section of the G. I. P. Railway were becoming rife, we took all ordinary police measures, and many more than ordinary measures for repression, without, however, obtaining such a degree of success as might have been expected. During the early part of the following year, 1878, we found, to our disappointment, that these robberies continued, and that the railway company were being obliged to pay considerable sums from time to time as compensation to the sufferers. Total sum thus paid or due by the company has amounted to nine lakhs of rupees (£90,000) or thereabouts. Though some fault and some inefficiency was known to exist on the part of the police, and though the recent scarcity had tempted many people to rob and steal grain-goods, while in transit by rail, still there was a persistency in these robberies which produced an apprehension that the subordinate officials of the railway itself must be concerned either by way of collusion or participation." The Commission after making a careful investigation has come to the conclusion that "after making allowances for a considerable accession of ordinary robbery from the outside, by reason of the scarcity and for shortcomings or misconduct on the part of the police, the subordinate officials of the Railway company were concerned in the robberies, either as principals or accessories, and that larger part of the total of this crime arose, not from the outside at all, but from the inside, so to speak—that is from within the departments of the railway company itself. Extensive frauds are indeed found to have been organized in the office of the Goods Superintendent at the head-quarters of the company in Bombay." We are told that no less than two hundred and twenty-six servants of the Company have been convicted and punished judicially, and that forty more are still in custody. Sir Richard Temple remarks:

"The result shows a very large amount of fraud and internal crime as contra-distinguished from external crime, committed by persons outside the company. It is to be feared, and the Commission believe, that a large amount of this internal crime has occurred which they have not been able to detect, and which the company's agent has not been able to bring to the criminal bar. It is to be added that the agent found it expedient to institute prosecutions against two Europeans among the upper ranks of the servants of the company; and though these were acquitted, one by a jury at Bombay, and one by the Sessions Judge at Sholapore, yet there was much reason for entertaining the gravest suspicion regarding them. The Commission entertained no doubt as to their guilt on a large scale. The agent does not intend to retain them in the service."

Sir Richard goes on: "The traffic manager and the goods superintendent are unquestionably blame-worthy for failing to supervise the goods agent—a failure which has proved to be most unfortunate."

Sir Richard Temple thus concludes:

"Now, for a long time past, we or our predecessors have feared that much fraud, corruption and malpractice exist in that department of the railway company, and that some of the European servants of the company, even among the upper ranks, are always implicated. Nor has the fear been at all diminished by a remembrance of the high character borne by the heads of the several great departments of the railway. These departmental heads have always been, and still are gentlemen of highest character, and persons of special ability and experience. Instances are but too common in India—and in all branches of the Governmental administration—of the dishonourable conduct of subordinates under the very shadow of superiors of the highest honour and ability. And the G. I. P. Railway affords only another instance of this. How far this fear of ours is shared by the general public or the mercantile classes is more than I can say for certain. But I imagine, subject to the conviction that the evil is quite notorious, and has a bad effect on all those who have business dealings with the railway, it is spread not only to the native, but also to the European members of the company's service. And I grieve to say that it causes some scandal to the English name, and tends to lower our national repute in the eyes of the native public. Corruption in native society has for ages been but too well-known, though of late it has been decreasing, but if this evil manifests itself among Europeans, the consideration will be graver still, and the Government is then bound to stretch forth its strong hand for repression."

It is true that one of the Railway officers, perhaps included in the above minute, has since cleared his character before the High Court, and Sir Richard Temple will doubtless withdraw his remarks regarding him, but this single case does not vitiate the truth of his general remarks. Sir Richard has shewn in this minute a resoluteness to find out the whole truth about Railway frauds and abuses in Bombay and a desire for reform, which cannot be too highly commended. In this country almost everything depends upon the Government to reform abuses. Public opinion is not strong. The Press may be as vigilant as ever, but its means of reliable information are limited. The people interested in the exposure of abuses are slow to move. They also lack the courage to drag abuses into light. There are of course reasons for this want of courage. The people have been long down-trodden, and regard the very peadah, who wears a Government badge, as an incarnation of authority. There is also such an *espirit de corps* among public officers that if a person dares lift his voice against a particular officer, however low his rank, the whole official machinery is not unfrequently set in motion to crush him. The timid people are therefore easily cowed down by an official frown, and hence there is a general reluctance to expose abuses. But when the Government takes up a matter in right earnest, there is some hope of reform. The officialdom then feels that it is the wish of its chief to correct an abuse, and that a zeal shewn in exposing it may meet with reward. It is however difficult to move the Government to see things as they are. But in this matter of Railway frauds, we are glad to observe that Sir Richard Temple has thrown off the usual official reserve and gone to work with commendable earnestness. The very exposure of the abuses is sure to have a great moral effect. The Railway Company, who are the sufferers from these frauds, cannot but feel a desire for co-operation with the Government. It would seem that they have in two years suffered a loss of no less than nine lakhs of rupees. Perhaps an enquiry into the working of the other Railways may bring into light grievous abuses. We are not in a position to give specific facts, but we believe it is well-known that some Railway contractors have within a few years amassed fortunes. In fact the Railways have become a formidable rival of the Commissariat and the Public Works Department in this line. Could the legitimate gains of the contractors have so quickly and immensely enriched them? And could they amass their fortunes without the connivance, if not corruption, of some Railway officers? These officers may not themselves be open to blame, but it will do no harm to enquire into the working of the Railway system of business. We are about to have a Railway conference. Will the conference take notes of this question? Sir Andrew Clarke has been for about four years our Public Works Minister. What has he done to expose and correct these abuses? Absolutely nothing.

THE INDIAN UNIVERSITIES.

For nearly twenty years University Education has been in force in India. There are three Universities in India, viz. the Universities of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. The University

of Calcutta embraces the whole of Northern India including Colombo, covering a population of 135 millions. The Universities of Madras and Bombay comprise the geographical limits of the two Presidencies. We have before us University statistics for the last 14 years, which afford sufficient data for a comparison of the merits of the three Universities. These statistics extend from 1863-64 to 1876-77. We give below the results of the examinations in the three Universities :

Year.	Entrance		First Arts Examination.		B.A.		Honours in Arts and MA.		Law		Medicine.		Civil Engineering.	
	Candidates.	Passed.	Candidates.	Passed.	Candidates.	Passed.	Candidates.	Passed.	Candidates.	Passed.	Candidates.	Passed.	Candidates.	Passed.
Calcutta University														
1863-4	1307	690	272	149	66	30	8	3	23	20	69	33	—	—
1864-5	1398	702	321	151	82	45	15	11	24	22	57	35	10	5
1865-6	1500	510	446	202	122	79	18	15	39	24	66	35	5	2
1866-7	1350	638	426	131	141	60	39	22	53	36	66	35	9	1
1867-8	1507	814	388	188	212	99	25	15	82	54	64	21	6	6
1868-9	1734	892	433	196	174	77	29	18	130	71	86	50	3	2
1869-70	1730	817	530	225	210	98	32	24	113	92	68	52	8	5
1870-1	1905	1099	540	233	212	84	39	35	111	65	91	68	9	3
1871-2	1902	767	507	204	232	00	32	24	158	63	117	59	13	2
1872-3	2144	938	560	220	242	126	30	20	130	152	130	56	16	8
1873-4	2644	848	539	305	212	192	57	32	268	125	168	75	21	3
1874-5	2264	966	533	193	217	90	38	18	171	40	209	51	24	2
1875-6	2373	838	575	182	231	73	38	24	87	55	245	92	20	10
1876-7	2425	1355	756	344	287	144	49	31	85	63	287	90	21	8
Madras University														
1863-4	390	143	82	23	21	11	—	—	10	2	—	—	6	1
1864-5	566	243	167	50	29	11	—	—	3	2	—	—	5	4
1865-6	556	229	214	76	8	6	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
1866-7	895	306	250	116	18	13	—	—	10	7	—	—	—	—
1867-8	1069	338	350	117	24	14	—	—	14	10	1	1	—	—
1868-9	1820	324	443	154	53	40	5	1	31	16	2	2	3	1
1869-70	1200	401	531	220	59	34	5	5	88	15	—	—	2	—
1870-1	1358	434	268	96	65	34	—	—	4	2	1	1	4	2
1871-2	1419	492	205	97	131	65	1	1	9	6	—	—	2	—
1872-3	1580	611	340	76	81	29	1	1	8	5	2	2	—	—
1873-4	1704	626	285	135	88	50	1	1	26	13	4	4	4	1
1874-5	1911	784	312	183	85	55	1	1	16	9	3	2	2	2
1875-6	2164	662	401	187	107	67	2	1	18	8	3	3	5	3
Bombay University														
1863-4	291	112	20	15	6	3	5	2	—	—	21	9	—	—
1864-5	241	109	22	16	15	8	2	—	—	—	9	7	—	—
1865-6	282	111	79	41	20	12	9	6	2	2	11	10	—	—
1866-7	440	93	59	21	59	25	6	3	2	2	4	2	3	2
1867-8	589	163	66	21	40	24	12	6	6	3	9	3	7	—
1868-9	640	250	85	40	33	7	12	4	6	3	9	5	10	8
1869-70	899	142	105	34	52	20	7	2	17	6	11	5	12	7
1870-1	901	142	136	44	61	13	4	2	14	13	10	7	21	10
1871-2	876	227	134	32	58	14	5	1	2	—	28	15	31	14
1872-3	909	378	99	24	56	22	6	5	6	2	28	19	29	19
1873-4	1026	355	146	48	62	23	8	3	7	3	38	91	36	37
1874-5	1115	262	213	74	69	30	9	2	11	2	52	25	39	19
1875-6	1289	434	193	69	88	18	6	4	11	5	66	47	36	30
1876-7	1164	208	176	29	92	40	4	2	16	3	60	30	35	22

It will be seen from the above that the number of entrance candidates has increased in Bengal two-fold, in Madras five-fold, and in Bombay about four-fold. Similarly the number of First Arts candidates has increased in Bengal a little less than three-fold, and in Madras more than four-fold, and in Bombay about eight-fold. The number of B. A. candidates has increased in Bengal a little more than four-fold, in Madras five-fold, and in Bombay about sixteen-fold. For honors in Arts the candidates have been far greater in Bengal than in Madras and Bombay put together. It would be interesting to enquire as to what is the cause of slow progress in the number of candidates for the Entrance, First Arts, and B. A. examinations in Bengal. We have already said that the Calcutta University comprises an area containing a population of 135 millions, while Madras and Bombay have not more than forty and fifteen millions respectively, and yet in those Presidencies the number of candidates for the University examinations is rapidly increasing. Are we to understand from the figures before us that English education is making greater progress in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay than in Bengal. Of course Bengal is weighted with the North-Western Provinces, Punjab, Oudh, and the Central Provinces, and in those Provinces English education is notoriously in a backward condition. The statistics of Bengal Proper have not been separately given, and so we cannot distinguish Bengal Proper in the field of University competition. But it is apparent from the above statements that judged by population the rate of progress in Bengal has not been proportionate.

We have prepared the following statement shewing the percentage of passed candidates at the examinations in the three Universities :

	Entrance.	F.A.	B.A.	Honours in Arts & M.A.	Law.	Medicine.	Civil Engineering.
	Percentage passed.	Percentage passed.	Percentage passed.	Percentage passed.	Percentage passed.	Percentage passed.	Percentage passed.
Calcutta University							
1863-4	52·79	54·77	45·45	37·5	87·	47·82	50·
1864-5	56·73	47·04	54·87	73·33	98·58	61·4	40·
1865-6	34·	47·53	64·75	83·33	61·53	53·	—
1866-7	47·26	30·75	42·55	56·41	67·92	53·	10·0
1867-8	54.	48·45	46·69	60·	65·85	32·81	63·3
1868-9	51·44	46·33	44·25	62·	54·61	58·13	62·5
1869-70	47·22	43·26	46·6	75·	81·41	76·47	33·3
1870-1	57·68	43·14	39·62	89·74	58·55	75·49	—
1871-2	40·32	40·23	88·79	75	37·34	50·42	15·13
1872-3	43·75	39·3	52·06	66·66	40·	43·	50.
1873-4	33·33	56·58	90·56	56·14	46·64	44·64	14·28
1174-5	42·85	38·21	41·47	47·36	23·39	24·4	83·
1875-6	35·31	31·65	25·97	63·15	63·21	37·55	50·
1876-7	55·87	45·5	50·27	63·27	74·11	31·35	38·09
Madras University							
1863-4	36·6	28·04	52·38	—	20·	—	16·66
1864-5	39·46	29·94	37·93	—	66·6	—	80
1865-6	41·26	35·51	75	—	100·	—	—
1866-7	34·18	46·4	7·22	—	70·	—	—
1867-8	31·61	33·42	58·3	—	71·42	10·0	—
1868-9	24·54	34·76	75·47	20	51·61	100·	33·3
1869-70	33·41	41·43	57·62	100	17·04	—	—
1870-1	31·22	35·82	52·30	—	50.	100·	50
1871-2	34·67	47·31	49·61	100	66·6	—	—
1872-3	39·93	31·6	35·80	100	62·5	100·	—
1873-4	36·73	43·85	56·81	100	50.	100.	25
1875-5	41·02	53·50	64·70	100	56·25	66·6	100·
1876-6	30·58	46·63	62·61	50	44·4	100·	60
Bombay University							
1863-4	38·48	75·	50·	40·	—	42·85	—
1864-5	45·22	72·7	60·	100·	—	77·7	—
1865-6	39·36	51·89	53·3	666·	10·0	90·9	—
1866-7	21·13	35·59	42·37	50·	10·0	50·	66·6
1867-8	30·24	30·43	60·	50·	50·	33·3	—
1868-9	39·06	47·05	21·2	33.3	50·	55·5	80·
1869-70	16·92	32·38	38·46	28·56	35·29	45·04	58·3
1870-1	15·76	32·35	21·31	50·	92·85	43·75	47·61
1871-2	25·91	23·88	24·13	20·	—	53·57	45·16
1872-3	41·58	24·2	39·28	83·3	16·6	67·82	65·51
1873-4	34·63	32·87	37·09	37·5	42·85	56·26	63·88
1874-5	23·50	34·74	43·47	22·2	18·1	49·01	43·58
1875-6	34·20	35·75	20·45	66·6	45·4	71·21	83·3
1876-7	17·59	16·47	43·47	50·	18·75	50·	82·85

It is satisfactory to note that Bengal scores first in both the Entrance and First Arts, but in the B. A. examination the Madras University carries away the palm. What are we to infer from this result? Is English education better grounded in Madras than in the other Presidencies or is the University standard of Madras lower than that of the other two. We do not think that the latter is the case. The only point of difference in favour of Bengal is the result of the Honors Examination, and here it is evident the graduates persevere in their studies longer than their confreres in the other Presidencies. On the other hand the number of candidates for professional education, such as law, medicine, and engineering, is far greater in Bengal than in Madras and Bombay. The number of candidates for law we observe has been falling off of late. The bar both metropolitan and Mofusil is overcrowded, and so our students, it seems, are not over-anxious to join it. The profession of medicine seems to be better paying, and so the number of candidates is increasing in it, but the percentage of successful candidates is not equally satisfactory. The Universities are movements of the greatest importance, and their comparative growth and progress are of rare interest in estimating the intellectual advancement of the different divisions of the Indian Empire.

SONTHALSTHAN.

THE two Resolutions of the Government of Bengal on the administration reports of Chota Nagpore and Bhagulpore Divisions throw considerable light on the condition of Sonthalsthan. In Chota Nagpore all the district officers, except the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga, speak somewhat unfavourably of the material condition of the people, considering that the high prices, and the partial failure of the crops, must, even if they caused no deterioration, have at least prevented any improvement during the past year. The Commissioner, however, appears to have formed a very decided opinion that the people are better off than is generally supposed. But the Commissioner's opinion is not supported by facts. It is admitted by him that there has been a westward movement of the aboriginal tribes of Lohardugga into the territories of the tributary chiefs. It is said to be extensive and to be due to high prices, rising rents, and the facility of acquiring lands in the wilder tracts at merely nominal rents. The Commissioner thinks that it is indicative also of general recession of the aborigines before the march of civilization. It is remarkable that this movement is going on notwithstanding the great natural resources of Chota Nagpore. There are several lac factories in Manbhoom, the palas and kusum trees, both of which yield lac in large quantities, being very abundant in the district. The industry is, however, a declining one, and the large lac factory at Dorundah in Lohardugga has this year been forced to suspend operations. Coal is found in each of the districts of the division, but the mines of Singbhoom and Lohardugga were not worked during the year. There are seven coal mines in the Pachumba sub-division of Hazaribagh, but in only four were operations carried on, and of these by far the most important is the Kurhurbari mine leased by the East Indian Railway Company from Government. The average number of men employed in this mine during the year was 4,500, and the yield of the year was 308,386 tons. The shafts are for the most part shallow, and entirely free from fire damp, and bare torches are used by the miners at their work. Mica appears to have worked at a profit in the Hazareebagh district, but no successful attempt has been made in recent years to work the copper mines of Singbhoom and Hazareebagh. If there were men of capital and enterprise in the division, these natural resources would doubtless have been greatly utilized. The absence of easy communication is also another difficulty in the way. The Deputy Commissioners of Manbhoom and Singbhoom report that a trade has sprung up in the fruit of the *haritaki*, a species of Terminalia. A considerable profit must, it would appear, be made by the export of the fruit of this jungle tree, as it can be purchased at Chyebassa for six annas a maund, while at Midnapore it sells at two rupees per maund. The fairs periodically held in the Manbhoom district have for many years been declining in importance, and they have now been almost entirely replaced by permanent markets. The trade of this division is not likely to develope as it ought, until its communications are materially improved. It is high prices, which have led to the exodus of some of the people to the territories of native chiefs. The following figures show the price of rice during the past two years :

	Highest price (seers per Re.)		Lowest price (seers per Re.)		Average (seers per Re.)			
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77	1877-78.	1876-77.		1877-78.	
					S.	c.	S.	c.
Manbhoom	22	17	34	29	26	10	20	14
Singbhoom... ...	38	22	48	40	39	8	31	0
Hazareebagh ...	18	13	26	20	24	8	16	0
Lohardugga ...	26	16½	32	34	29	0	24	0

Notwithstanding high prices the condition of the people of the Sonthal Pergunnahs in the Bhaugulpore Division is much better. The settlement of rent, it would seem, is going on fairly enough. The social condition of the Sonthals is undergoing important changes. The Lieutenant Governor remarks: "The Hinduizing improvement among the Sonthals appear to be more of a social than a religious character. Abstinence from particular kinds of food has always been regarded as a badge of caste distinction, and the self-important air which Bhagirath Manjhi's followers are said to assume is thoroughly characteristic of aboriginal races undergoing the process of refinement into Hindus. This movement also accounts for the check which the progress of Christianity is said to have received. On the whole, the political aspects of the movement do not seem to be very marked. It is stated, however, that there is a tendency among the reformed Sonthals to withhold their rents, and the Government officers must continue to watch quietly and unobtrusively the progress of things. At any moment such a movement among a simple and exciteable people like the Sonthals may call for decisive action. The Lieutenant-Governor was glad, however, to learn from Maharajah Gopal Singh that Bhagiruth Manjhi has now settled down to become a quiet and peaceful religious reformer, and entirely avoids all political agitation. The Lieutenant-Governor would

wish special enquiry to be made into the truth of the statement that the Hinduized Sonthals, who have abandoned their national drink, rice-beer, have taken to smoking ganja. If this is the case, it is the worst phase in connection with the movement as yet reported. It should also be explained why the new converts call themselves "Kherwars," which is understood to be the name of a wild tribe remotely akin to the Sonthals. In Chota Nagpore we are told that the Mundas and Oraons in Lohardugga, the Hos in Singbhoom, and other kindred tribes are addicted to excessive drinking at festivals. The liquor consumed is, however, 'handya' or rice-beer, which is far more wholesome and nutritious than spirits." Education is however making very slow progress in Chota Nagpore.

THE IRISH CONTINGENT.

LIKE ourselves the Ministry seem to appreciate the value of the Irish Contingent. They command a large number, some seventy or eighty strong, and on whichever side they may throw in their weight they are sure to influence sensibly the balance of votes. Lord Beaconsfield has evidently been sensible of it, and notwithstanding the alleged obstructiveness of the Irish members, his Lordship has succeeded in carrying them with him. He has given them an Intermediate Education Bill which they hardly expected to get, and they have rewarded him with their votes on the Eastern question. Mr. O'Donnell thus spoke in the debate on the Berlin Treaty. He said:

"He could not give his vote in support of the foreign policy of the front Opposition bench—indeed, there was not a rag of foreign policy to be found there. There were many other things—philanthropy, humanitarianism, generous denunciation of atrocities when committed upon the friends of Russia, but of a foreign policy they had not shown the slightest trace. It was from his (Mr. O'Donnell's) pen that the first description of the Bulgarian insurrection had been contributed to any English journal. In that article, published three weeks before any question was raised in that house, he dealt fully with the atrocities which had been committed upon the insurgents, but he could not close his eyes to the facts that the insurrection in Bulgaria was a real insurrection, planned by agents outside, and that there was a large amount of provocation for the horrible and inexcusable excesses of the Turkish irregulars. From that day to the present he had watched carefully the progress of affairs in the East, and he had always observed that the Opposition had an apparently fixed resolution to see and hear as little as possible that tended to expose the character of the Russian machinations, Russian provocations and Russian conduct in the Turkish provinces. (Hear, hear.) In voting against the resolutions of the leader of the Opposition he did not wish to be understood as giving anything like a hearty or general approval to the policy of her Majesty's Government. He might complain that for too long a time their policy was too largely influenced by the agitation aroused in the country by the right hon. member for Greenwich. They might have dared more and dared earlier, and if they had done so Europe would not now be in the position in which it was. In the "Platonic regrets" which the leader of the Opposition had placed before the house he was unable to discover any indication of a foreign policy. He would refer especially to the extraordinary "regret" that the Anglo-Turkish Convention was not previous to its ratification submitted to Parliament to be made the subject of discussion in and out of that house, and perhaps two years spent in wrangling over its details. The expression of such a regret must surely proceed from one of the most extraordinary misapprehensions that had ever been ventilated in the most democratic and impracticable working men's club."

Mr. O'Donnell said much more for which we have not space, but his speech was highly appreciated by the ministry. The ministerial organ, the *Morning Post* thus notices it: "It would seem as if Mr. Forster and those who act with him have no thought of anything but the emancipation of the European provinces from the rule of the Turk. Lord Elcho and Mr. O'Donnell pointed out the fact that none of these gentlemen have ever alluded in the most passing manner to the atrocities which have been committed in Bulgaria since the conclusion of the war. They were not committed, as were the atrocities two years ago, in a sudden outbreak of passion, which, as Mr. O'Donnell observed, was not unprovoked. They have been done in cold blood, done continuously from day to day, and in pursuance of a systematic plan. Yet not a voice has been raised from the Liberal benches to protest against them, nor has a single question been put to the Government as to what course they proposed to take with regard to them." On the other hand the Liberals feel the defection of Mr. O'Donnell and his friends from their camp on the Eastern question. The *Liverpool Daily Post* thus writes on the subject: "Mr. O'Donnell and Mr Butt both showed by their speeches that they were conscious of this. We must be allowed to regret, without questioning their honour or their discretion, that they and so many of their friends could have been persuaded that either Ireland's credit, or the usefulness of the British Empire, or the welfare of the world could be advanced by applauding Lord Beaconsfield's conjuring fireworks. Mr. Butt has not, we believe, been distinctively a Liberal through life, and it is possible he may be disposed to fight merely for temporary national advantages; but Mr. O'Donnell is an approved and advanced Liberal, in whom, apart from his national action, a large number of the best younger Liberals of the day earnestly believe. Can he deem it worthy of a Liberal, for any passing national reasons, to give support to a Tory Government which is not bound, even by its highest principles, to do anything for Ireland but govern it according to the odious maxims and still more detestable practices of Orange landlordism? We will not credit it. On the contrary, we believe Mr. O'Donnell was actuated by a dislike and mistrust of Russia." It is thus evident that both parties were solicitous for the support of the Irish contingent. We observe that Mr. O'Donnell's support has been enlisted on the side of the Irish Church. The *Irish Nation* publishes a London letter, which has the following: "The member for Dungarvan, I am informed, has recently been chosen by the Catholic Congress sitting in Paris as its representative in this country. The Congress was formed from societies founded to spread information on Catholic subjects, and to counteract the influence of irreligious literature at the present day. On the Continent the problem of resisting the tide of lies and calumny against the Church has become a serious one, and Catholic leaders are striving to create a popular press on their side to compete against the widely diffused publications of the enemy. To aid in spreading the movement in England, Mr. O'Donnell's services have been enlisted, owing to his high literary position in this country."

Now, may we ask whether the Indians alone should be censured if they should ask for the support of Mr. O'Donnell and his compatriots? We have so few friends in England that we cannot feel too grateful to any one, who may stretch forth the hand of friendly support and co-operation to us. Mr. O'Donnell may not be liked by Englishmen, but we see that his influence is acknowledged by both Conservatives and Liberals, and if he lends his aid to us from philanthropic motives, should we not gratefully receive it?

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

THE LATEST NEWS from Simla is that the Mission to Kabul started from Peshawar on last Saturday morning, satisfactory arrangements having been made with the Pass Afridis for its safe conduct to the Amir's outposts. Camps pitched at Jamrud. Major Cavagnari goes on with small escort to Ali Musjid to communicate with the Amir's officials for its further safe conduct. According to latest information Mir Akhor is believed to be at Ali Musjid with instructions from the Amir. Late last night we received the following news:

"Sir Neville Chamberlain's Mission moved yesterday to Jumrud and Major Cavagnari rode on to Ali Musjid with Colonel Jenkins and the two native members of the Mission escorted by the Khaibaris to ask for safe passage. The Amir's officer at Ali Musjid positively refused to allow the Mission to advance and he crowned the heights commanding the pass with his levies after three hours' interview and repeatedly warning the officer that his act would be taken as the Amir's act. Finding the officer determined to dispute the passage by force Major Cavagnari returned to Jumrud and the Mission has been withdrawn to Peshwar. The Khaibaris behaved well throughout."

So the ball has begun to roll!

THERE WAS a rumour in Town last week that His Majesty the King of Burma had died. But the accredited Agent of His Majesty in Calcutta has communicated to the *Statesman* the following telegram received on Saturday last from the Burmese Agent in Rangoon:—"King not dead; alive." This is the latest intelligence received here, and with our contemporary we give it for what it may be worth.

YESTERDAY MORNING Calcutta was visited with a tremendous downpour and a chota cyclone. It rained incessantly and heavily for more than two hours in the morning, and then with short intermissions and less violently during the whole day. In the morning the streets of Calcutta resembled running streams and the compounds of houses little lakes. Happily the gale did not spend its whole fury. The damage done to the river crafts, trees, and tiled huts is not yet ascertained.

WE ARE glad to learn that Babu Joykissen Mookerjee, the public-spirited zemindar of Ooterparah, has founded four scholarships of the annual value of Rs. 50 each to be awarded to the most successful candidates at the Sanskrit Title Examination lately instituted by Government. Two of these scholarships are to be named after the donor and the other two after that of his deceased wife Parvati Devi. Government securities of the requisite value will be deposited by him for the purpose two years hence if the experiment succeeds. For the present he would place at the disposal of the Director of Public Instruction the sum of Rs. 400, should his offer be accepted by Government.

THE *Indian Daily News* states that Mr. Souttar "repents" his choice of the Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality, and is not disposed to accept it, and that Mr. Wells will probably succeed Mr. Metcalfe. Our contemporary seems to know more the internal feelings of Mr. Souttar than that gentleman does himself. We are in a position to give a flat contradiction to the statement. Mr. Souttar is attending the Committee meetings and takes great interest in the work.

THE FOLLOWING farewell letter was addressed by the Government of India to Mr. Justice Markby:

"The Governor-General in Council cannot allow you to lay down the Vice-Chancellorship of the University of Calcutta on the occasion of your departure from India without expressing his acknowledgments of the services you have done to the cause of education and enlightenment in India. While ably performing the arduous duties of a High Court Judge, you have, by precept and example, shown educated Natives and Europeans how they can, consistently with the performance to their regular duties, actively promote the cause of intellectual progress. During the last two years you have most successfully guided the deliberations of the University Senate with whom rests the practical control of higher education among 135 millions of Her Majesty's Indian subjects. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council considers that your Vice-Chancellorship has been marked, not only by steady and useful progress, but also by more than one important step of University reform."

The Government of India had however no kind parting word for Mr. Justice Kemp!

TESTIMONIALIZING RUN MAD! We observe that a movement has been set on foot for a public memorial in honor of the late Mr. Sutcliffe. We always entertained a high respect for Mr. Sutcliffe as Principal of the Presidency College. He was a good disciplinarian, and at the same time evinced a lively interest in the welfare of his pupils, who were consequently much attached to him. Nothing was therefore more becoming his pupils than to subscribe for a portrait of his as a token of their respect and gratitude. We supported this movement because we thought it was perfectly legitimate. But to erect a public memorial in his honor would be to over-do the thing. Outside the walls of the Presidency College Mr. Sutcliffe did no signal service to the public. We hope we will not be misunderstood if we say that

Mr. Sutcliffe as an educationist was not possessed of a very liberal mind. His influence as Registrar of the Calcutta University was not always healthy, though he worked very fairly as a routine man. He wanted to concentrate all educational honors upon the Presidency College, and therefore opposed the affiliation of independent institutions. Some twelve years ago our illustrious and revered countryman Pundit Eswar Chunder Vidyasagor had proposed to raise the Metropolitan Institution into a First Arts College, and although he had the warmest support of such men as Sir Cecil Beadon, the late Bishop Cotton and other influential Fellows of the University, he was balked by Mr. Sutcliffe, who pulled the wires from behind. That the Institution was at last affiliated some five years ago was entirely due to the generous support of the late Mr. Atkinson. Mr Sutcliffe as Director of Public Instruction was an utter failure. He was neither a good thinker nor a good writer, and it is even said that in drawing up his annual report he was greatly indebted to Mr. Croft. If there was any one connected with the department of public instruction, whose memory ought to be cherished by the people of Bengal with gratitude, and who deserved a public memorial, it was the late Mr. Atkinson. It was he who successfully fought the battle of high education amid much opposition and obloquy; but nothing daunted he went on straight to his work. He did not allow even the frowns of such an obdurate chief as Sir George Campbell to break his spirit. But *he* is forgotten, and a memorial is to be erected to the honor of Mr. Sutcliffe! *Oh! tempora! oh! mores!*

THE PUBLIC seem to be impatient for the reports of the Market and Collectorate Committees of the Calcutta Municipality. They are justly anxious to know the revelations made by these Committees. From what we hear these Committees have not yet drawn up their reports; in fact they have not yet concluded their enquiries. They cannot make their reports without completing their enquiries. But we see no objection to the publication of the evidence, which they have taken and which we believe has been printed. We are glad to learn that the Commissioners have resolved to communicate the proceedings of the two Committee to the press for general information. The public will be now in a position to judge how the enquiry has been conducted, and on what points further evidence is necessary. At the same time we must confess that the public have not done their duty. The Market Committee invited the public by advertizement to help them with information and suggestions, but we believe not one individual has come forward to render this assistance.

SOME of our morning contemporaries state that Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, in tendering his resignation of his seat in the Medical Faculty, wished to be transfered to some other Faculty. This is not the fact. Dr. Sircar did not ask to be transfered to any other faculty. He tendered his resignation because as he stated he did not consider it would be consistent with his self-respect to take his seat in a body, which had twice refused to associate with him. Strange to say that the Syndicate have accepted his resignation, but have returned the resignation of the other doctors, who were opposed to him. We cannot understand on what principle the first has been accepted and the last refused. If it be urged that the resignation of a Fellow, who is attached to more than one Faculty, may be accepted, but not that of Fellows who belong to only one faculty, then Dr. Partridge and some other doctors were in the position of Dr. Sircar, because they like him belonged to more than one Faculty. The whole thing smacks of a clever manœuvre, which we did not expect from a body of learned and honorable gentlemen like the Syndicate,

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ONE OF the reasons, which the Government assigned for not providing for a judicial trial for offences under the Vernacular Press Act was that it might cause a scandal, and give the person on trial the *eclat* of a martyr in the eyes of the public. Now, we ask has not the trial of the Surat Editors for License tax riots proved a huge scandal, and has the Government taken any steps to prevent it? Even the *Pioneer* is constrained to write in this way:

"The trial of the Surat Editors, charged with writing seditious articles and otherwise inciting the people to disloyal conduct during the late riots, is daily growing more unsatisfactory, the witnesses for the prosecution prevaricating in the most puzzling way. The counsel defending the prisoners have one point in view towards which they stubbornly struggle through the mass of contradictory statements made before the judge, and that point is that the police have shaped the case to suit their own views, and have brought forward evidence that bears marks of having been carefully dovetailed beforehand. The strong party-feeling in the city is shewn by the eagerness with which witnesses, believed to be truthful, have retracted all that was recorded as their evidence in the preliminary trial, and have confessed that the fear of coercion by the police alone drove them to give false evidence."

Now, who is responsible for this scandalous state of things? We do not hesitate to say—it is the Government. The Surat trials are a State prosecution, and if the Government had not put too much faith in the Policeman, who has apparently been pulling the wires throughout this wretched affair, there would have been no such scandal, which all parties seem to deplore. The defendants, it seems, have been at last enlarged on bail; if they are *now* considered fit to be released on bail, why had they not been released ere this? For months they had been rotting in jail, and some of them have seriously suffered in health. This trial so far as it has gone has been a cruel commentary on British justice in India.

OUR ASSAM CORRESPONDENT says that Sir Stuart Bayley has made a very favourable impression upon the thinking portion of the Assam public by making the first native appointment. He has appointed Babu Joygopal Rokhit, a very deserving officer, to be Executive Engineer of the Central Assam Division.

Sir Stuart Bayley is making a tour through Assam. At Sylhet he was presented with a welcome address, in replying to which he gave some glimpses of his meditated policy. We give the reply *in extenso*:

Gentlemen,—It is with feelings of sincere gratification that I have to acknowledge your kind welcome of me and the address which you have been good enough to present to me.

I feel indebted to you, gentlemen, for taking this early opportunity of letting me know what your own views are as to the requirements of your District,

You say with justice that while Col. Keatinge laboured earnestly and successfully to improve the communications in the Assam valley Districts, yet much remains to be done both in developing the grand natural water-communications and in opening out roads in the more populous districts of the Surmah Valley, and you moreover attribute the little that has been done in this way, mainly to the true cause, viz., not the want of interest, but the want of funds.

Well, Gentlemen, one of the objects which I had in view in undertaking this tour at the present season was to acquaint myself with your requirements and with the possibility of supplying them with respect especially to improved communications and having regard to the sentiments you have just expressed, it will be of interest to you to learn that the Government of India have for sometime had under their consideration a scheme prepared sometime ago by my predecessor, and now I should imagine nearly ripe for issue, to give to the districts of this Province a scheme of local taxation somewhat similar to the Road Cess of Bengal, the proceeds of which like those of the Bengal Cess will be wholly expended on district communications by a committee composed of residents in the District. We cannot, in view of the calamities of recent years which have brought such a weary strain on imperial revenues, look to imperial finances to give us any great additional help, and it is therefore on local efforts that we must depend for such a developement of local resources as may enable the more fertile districts of this province to advance *pari passu* with the neighbouring districts of Bengal and to render them independent in ordinary times of special assistance from the Government of India. Looking at the immense material advantages which Bengal is receiving in the way of improved communications from this system of local taxation, I hope that we too, Gentlemen, will at a humble distance be able to secure and appreciate similar advantages.

It is only right that I should remind you that in regard to roads, the natural features of the country present unusual difficulties so much so as to render it very questionable whether even if these difficulties be overcome any system of roadways which should not subserve, but compete with the system of waterways which nature has provide in Sylhet, would be of any real use or advantage. Under the enlightened and energetic guidance of your present Deputy Commissioner I doubt not that Sylhet will take a place worthy of its vast population and great natural advantages, and I expect of you, Gentlemen, that you will assist him, with the loyal and patriotic co-operation which characterises your address.

For your very kind remarks about myself personally and for the flattering reception you have given me, I can only offer you my heart-felt thanks, and trust that my future conduct of the administration will prove me to be neither unworthy nor unmindful of your kindness.

The reply has justly given satisfaction to the people of Sylhet.

TWO MEMORIALS have been forwarded from Calcutta to Simla against the Vernacular Press Act Amendment Bill, we mean one from the British Indian Association, and the other from the Vernacular Press Act Committee appointed at the late public meeting held at the instance of the Indian Association. We give below the memorial of the British Indian Association:

To

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL,

The humble memorial of the British Indian Association,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That your memorialists desire to avail themselves of the opportunity, which has been afforded to the public by the introduction into Your Excellency's Council for making laws and regulations of the Bill entitled a Bill to amend Act IX of 1878, to submit a few remarks and suggestions regarding the Vernacular Press Act for the consideration of your Excellency in Council.

Your memorialists in common with the public at large were not a little taken by surprise, when at a single sitting in March last a Bill was passed into law, imposing serious restrictions upon the liberty of the Vernacular Press of this country. The Bill was of the highest moment to the cause of Indian literature and progress, and when it was hurried through with such inordinate precipitancy, your memorialists were led to fear that the empire was perhaps threatened with a danger, of which they had no knowledge, and of which the calmness of the political atmosphere had afforded no indication.

3. The supreme reason, which led Your Excellency in Council to pass a measure of such retrogressive nature in such excessive haste was stated to be the safety of the empire. Your Excellency was pleased to declare, "I say distinctly and without hesitation that in my deliberate and sincere conviction the present measure is imperatively called for by that supreme law—the safety of the State." Appreciating as your memorialists do Your Excellency's hereditary and chivalrous attachment to the cause of freedom of thought and utterance they felt it to be their duty as loyal subjects to bow in silence to Your Excellency's emphatic declaration as the head of the Government, responsible for the safety of the empire, as to the imperative necessity for legislation on the subject. Hence it was that they, while feeling deeply interested in the maintenance of the Freedom of the Press as a most potent engine for national amelioration in India, considered that an opportunity would come for them to lay their humble sentiments before Your Excellency in Council, when the excitement, and the conjunction of circumstances that had led to the excitement and the enactment, will have passed away.

4. That opportunity has now arrived. The discussions, which have followed the enactment in this country, in the India Office, in the public press of the United Kingdom and elsewhere, and in the Imperial Parliament, have laid the subject before the public in all its bearings, and shewn, in the humble judgment of your memorialists, how inconsistent is the new press law with the traditions and progressive policy of the British Government in India. The public verdict, your memorialists respectfully submit, has been against the law and the manner in which it was passed.

5. Your memorialists with due deference submit that they have fully weighed the advantages and disadvantages of a free Vernacular Press in this country. They are well aware that the British Government in this country by its position is despotic, but they are thankful to say that its despotism is not of that unrelenting kind with which the people of an oriental state are familiar. From the earliest days of the British Indian Empire the policy of the Government has been to govern the people in consonance with their views, sentiments, wishes, and feelings, and it has accorded to them the privilege of making them known to the ruling authorities by petitions and public meetings, and through the medium of the public press. If it were a question whether this dearly prized privilege of free public utterance was compatible with the despotic character of British rule in India, that question would apply equally to the European and Indian members of the Indian commoncealth, for if freedom of thought and expression should be considered to hamper the actions of Government, it would have the same effect whether that freedom were exercised by the Europeans or the Indians. But happily the experience of British Indian statesmen for a century and a quarter has shewn conclusively that no danger need be apprehended to the stability of the empire from the free expression of public opinion, that the greater the light the safer the course of the vessel of the State, that under a civilised rule the unrestricted public voice is the best safety-valve for the ventilation of public grievances. The institution of a free press in this country is the most valuable because the governing body, being alien by birth, ideas, customs, and religion, has not the same facilities for

guaging the under-currents of popular opinion and feeling that exist in a self-contained and self-governed community.

6. Entertaining these sentiments your memorialists consider it a grave misfortune for the country that circumstances should have induced Your Excellency in Council to pass a law having for its object the repression of the liberty of the Vernacular Press. Your memorialists are quite conscious that that Press has short-comings, that the tone of some members of it has been sometimes frivolous and foolish, that it has not unfrequently been misguided, and that it is susceptible of great improvement. They have carefully perused the extracts on which the new measure is to a great extent founded, but having regard to all that has been or may be urged against the Vernacular Press they cannot persuade themselves to think that it sows sedition and disloyalty, and is therefore a public danger. It may not always criticise intelligently, carefully, or delicately measures and men, but your memorialists cannot believe that there is one among the conductors of the Vernacular Press, who is not alive to the manifold blessings of British rule, and who does not feel that the prosperity of the people of this country is indissolubly bound up with the stability of British sway.

7. Should, however, any person connected with the Vernacular Press be so misguided or unfortunate as to incite by his writings disobedience to the lawful authority of the Government or disaffection against it, the ordinary law of the land, irrespective of the new Act, your memorialists are convinced, is quite strong enough to punish him. At any rate it has not been found or proved that it is not strong enough for that purpose. This is not the opinion of your memorialists only but also of such a high authority as the late Law Member of Your Excellency's Council, Sir Arthur Hobhouse, of such eminent members of the Indian Council as Sir Erskine Perry, Sir William Muir, and Col. Yule, and of such an illustrious senator as the ex-Premier of Her Majesty, the Right Honorable W. E. Gladstone. When there is a consensus of opinion among such high authorities on the subject, and when no facts or proofs have been adduced to invalidate that opinion, your memorialists cannot but consider it a grave misfortune for the country that the substantive and what they may call the constitutional law of the land should be violated or altered without good and valid reason.

8. The object of the Vernacular Press Act is to prevent writings, 1stly, likely to excite disaffection to the State, 2ndly, to intimidate persons with a view to extortion, 3rdly, to coerce public servants, and 4thly, to foster race antipathies. Now, writings, when they amount to offences of the description mentioned, are already punishable under the Penal Code. The existing law has, however, drawn a broad distinction between what is and what is not sedition, and by doing so has saved the rights of legitimate public criticism, but that distinction has been swept away by the new law. It has practically left the executive authorities to construe sedition according to their individual ideas, fancies, and feelings, and as no judicial trial is provided, the functions of prosecutor, witness and judge are united in the person of the head of the local Government, subject to the superintendence of the Supreme Government.

9. With regard to private individuals or public officers suffering from the abuse of liberty of the Press the law had hitherto given them ample protection, and if they had from nervousness or other causes abstained from availing themselves of the benefit of the law, surely it could be no argument for altering the law nor a justification for taking away the ordinary jurisdiction of the Courts of Justice in such matters. In favor of special legislation on this point the supreme necessity, viz., the safety of the State could not with any shew of reason be urged.

10. Not only is the new law directed against the Vernacular Newspaper Press but also against all Oriental Literature falling within the restrictive clauses of the Act. No proof was adduced in passing the law that the current oriental literature has been charged with the same mischievous tendencies that had been alleged against some of the Vernacular newspapers. Under the auspices of British rule the Vernaculars of this country are reviving; the Government is taking special means to encourage their improvement, but the new law is calculated to have an exactly opposite effect upon them. Pinioned by the fetters, which the law has forged, both the publishers and authors of Vernacular works, particularly the former, because they are ignorant and therefore more liable to misgiving and alarm will necessarily feel a galling restraint, which cannot but prove highly detrimental to the interests of oriental literature.

11. To be just to the enlightend principles which had hitherto guided the Government in furthering the cause of intellectual, moral and political advancement in India, Act IX of 1878 deserves no place in the Indian Statute book. Now that the excitement, which led to the enactment, has passed away, and that a consensus of opinion has pronounced itself against the retrograde tendency and injurious character of the law, your memorialists venture to submit that if Your Excellency's Government will be graciously pleased of their own free will and grace to repeal the law and thus restore the liberty of the Vernacular Press, not only will Your Excellency vindicate your traditional sympathies on the side of freedom of thought and speech, but will not a little strengthen the bonds of Indian attachment to the Imperial Throne and add to the glory of the Imperial Crown.

12. Should, however, Your Excellency still consider that motives of State policy require the retention of the law, a conclusion which your memorialists could not but deeply regret, they would solicit that oriental literature be excluded from the restrictive provisions of the Act, that the clauses referring to intimidation of private individuals or public officers, be omitted, and that the restriction be limited to such writings of the Vernacular Press as might excite disaffection to Government. Such a limitation of the scope of the law would be consistent with the supreme reason assigned for its enactment, viz., safety of the State. And even in that case it would be but reasonable and just that the alleged offender should not be deprived of the privilege of a trial in a Court of Justice. This is a privilege enjoyed by the meanest subject of Her Imperial Majesty, and your memorialists cannot conceive any reasons why it should be withdrawn from a press-writer, who from his position deserves some consideration. The Courts are the Queen's Courts; the judges are appointed either by the Government here or by Her Majesty direct; they arbitrate in all matters affecting the lives, liberties, and properties of the subjects of Her Majesty; they also decide disputes between the Government and private individuals; and if they be deemed worthy of the fullest confidence in the dispensation of justice in all other matters, your memorialists cannot believe that they should be deemed worthy of no confidence in this important matter.

13. It has been urged that there might be failure of justice in consequence of the misdirected sympathies of native jury-men, but jury trial has not been introduced in all districts; the Sessions Judges throughout the country with one exception are European officers, and when assessors are associated with them, they are not bound by the opinions of such assessors; in the Jury districts, should the judge differ from the verdict of the jury he is competent to refer the case to the High Court for final adjudication. And lastly, under the Criminal Procedure Code it is always open to the Government to appeal against an acquittal. With all these safe-guards it would be most unreasonable to assume that a judicial trial for conductors of Vernacular papers for press offences might result in the frustration of the ends of justice through the misplaced sympathies of native jury-men. If it be said that a judicial trial under the present procedure is a protracted one, it might be simplified without of course endangering the interests of substantial justice.

14. One reason assigned against a public trial of a person charged with inciting sedition through the medium of a newspaper is that it would intensify the evil complained of by giving it wide publicity and vesting the offender with the *eclat* of a martyr in the eyes of the vulgar. This view has been so emphatically and conclusively answered by Sir Arthur Hobhouse that your memorialists will not touch upon it at length, but they crave leave to observe that if what is said be true of open press prosecution, it will be still more true of secret enquiry, for though the enquiry will be secret, the fact of the punishment will be published, and perhaps the reasons also for the satisfaction of the public, and then the same publicity would be given in the one case as in the other, with this difference that a public trial would command public confidence, while a private enquiry would fill the public mind with suspicion and mistrust. Besides, it would be presumptuous on the part of your memorialists to urge that the British Government in this country stands on such a high pedestal of its own integrity, rectitude of purpose and high-mindedness that it has nothing to fear from publicity. Even in the dark days of the Sepoy Mutiny when the empire was shaken to its foundation, that brave, enlightened, and high-souled statesman, Lord Canning, who steered the vessel of the state safe through that dire storm, and who for a time thought it necessary for public safety to bring the press of India without distinction under control, did not dispense with the formalities of a regular trial by a court of justice for press offences. In the few cases which were instituted under the Press Act of 1857 the culprits were punished after a fair and full judicial investigation. Surely it cannot be contended that the complexion of the present time is worse than that of the days when Lord Canning ruled, and that it is therefore necessary to substitute secret enquiry for an open judicial investigation for the punishment of press offenders. It has been said that this mode of procedure has been provided for the benefit of the persons concerned, that if these were subjected to a regular judicial trial, they would be liable to heavy punishment, but that if they were brought under the secret and summary enquiry enjoined by the present law, the punishment which would devolve upon them would be the forfeiture of the money entered in the bail-bond and the confiscation of their stock and block. This punishment would, your memorialists respectfully submit, be by no means light, for it would deprive them of the very means of subsistence, and would also brand them for life, which by itself is a matter of no little gravity. But under a public trial they will have the benefit of professional advice and advocacy and an impartial tribunal, whilst under a secret enquiry they will have the aid of no such accessories, but will be left entirely to the tender mercies of a judge, who will combine in his single person the incongruous functions of prosecutor, witness, and adjudicator. It might therefore be well conceived that the conductors of the Vernacular Press would gladly prefer the severity, such as it is, of a public judicial trial to the imaginary tenderness of a secret state enquiry. In the one case they will feel that justice has been done to them, in the other, though justice might be done to them, it is doubtful whether they will feel that such justice has been done to them.

15. Your memorialists do not clearly understand whether it is intended that the Bill under notice will be passed at Simla. As Your Excellency's Council for making laws and regulations, whilst at Simla, is wholly devoid of the non-official element, it is meet that a measure of such grave importance should not be passed there. It is true that the object of this Bill is simply to give effect to the suggestion of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State to do away with the provisions for the censorship of the Vernacular Press, but there is nothing in his despatch which precludes Your Excellency in Council from undertaking a general revision of the Act or any member of Your Excellency's Council from moving amendments on essential points in the light of the discussions, which have followed the enactment both here and in England. But if the Bill should be passed at Simla, the whole body of the non-official members of Your Excellency's Council would be deprived of the opportunity of considering the measure.

16 In conclusion your memorialists pray that your Excellency in Council will be pleased to repeal Act IX of 1878, but in case your Excellency in Council from considerations of State policy should decline to repeal the Act, Your Excellency in Council may be pleased, 1stly, to modify it by restricting its scope only to the offence of sedition by leaving the criminal intimidation of private individuals and public officers for extortion or other evil purposes to the operation of the ordinary law of the land, 2ndly to omit the restrictive clauses relating to oriental literature, and 3rdly to provide a fair judicial trial for all offences under the Act.

And your memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray,

JOTENDRO MOHUN TAGORE,

British Indian Association Rooms, No. 18, British Indian Street, Calcutta, 20th September, 1878. } *Honorary Secretary.*

We have not space for the memorial of the Vernacular Press Act Committee, which is a well-reasoned document. We hope the Bill will not be passed at Simla. The non-official members ought to be allowed an opportunity to speak on the subject. We hope the other provinces will follow the example of Bengal.

MR. STOKES has applied for leave to introduce a Bill to define and amend the law relating to alluvion islands and abandoned river-beds. He said that this measure, like the Transfer of Property Bill and the Negotiable Instruments Bill, was intended to form a chapter of the Indian Civil Code, and its object was to state, in a concise, accurate and accessible form, the law relating to the ownership of alluvial lands, of the islands (commonly called *chars*) formed in rivers or in the sea, and of abandoned river-beds. In Madras Bombay and Burma there was no statutory law on the subject: in Sindh there were only some executive rules framed in 1852 by Sir Bartle Frere which were held to have the force of law: in the rest of British India the law was contained partly in legal text-books, partly in the Bengal Regulation XI. of 1825 and the Bengal Act IV. of 1868, sections 2 and 4, but chiefly in the numerous decisions of the High Courts and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council with which the former enactment was encrusted. We will notice the Bill when it is published.

AN ENGLISHMAN ON INDIAN QUESTIONS.

London, 16th August 1878.

DEAR SIR,—I sent you, in good faith, some lines, which you kindly published, under the heading "Denounce Him for His Race," and I believed and believe every word of them. Since then, however, we have seen enough of Tory Government in England to satisfy us for a life-time, and I beg you to let me express in strong terms my hearty dislike of the Anglo-Turkish Treaty, and my determination, for one, to oppose Lord Beaconsfield's Government. I believed against all Mr. Gladstone's speeches that the Government was in earnest in much in which they have proved unearnest, and I at least could not believe that they would go into a Congress with a secret treaty in their possession—actually go to Congress to compel Russia to do what on their own part they had resolved to set at nought. Never before, I think, was any such act done since the popular will of England became strong enough to make itself heard as against secret diplomacy. I do not say or think that Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury are personally dishonest. But if truth is true their policy has been a false policy, and is unworthy of the support of any true man in India or in England.

I am glad to see that you are so manfully opposing the Vernacular Press Act. That you will win is not to be doubted. It was a foolish act to begin with—foolish in particular as the act of a Tory Government. That it never can do any good is one of the certainties of life; and I am satisfied that it will in the end be detested in England. May I venture to suggest to you not to leave the cases of papers suppressed either to a Press Commissioner (however good) or to the Indian Government (however honourable) but to bring them to the House of Commons? We shall not always have a majority wielded by Lord Beaconsfield; and there will yet be some chance of the law being left for a time a dead letter (so that the Government may not be discredited) and then of its being repealed.

Please observe Mr. Fawcett's sturdy appeal on Tuesday night for the Government of India to a greater extent through native agency. It was a fine speech and that was its finest part. On financial as well as moral grounds he pleaded for that great step towards the justice that India will yet obtain. In none of all his speeches did Mr. Fawcett ever so thoroughly succeed in startling Englishmen as by his mode of putting the case of the Indian Balance Sheet—Income, Expenditure, and Debt. "Is it a fact," said one member

after another, "that instead of an income of £62,000,000, it is only £39 (or even 37) 000,000?" And the question was still more wonderingly echoed out of doors. Of course the facts are in no-wise new. I simply say that in this case Mr. Fawcett succeeded in startling people by a round assertion which seemed to involve a serious problem.

I have not myself been able to see anythng extraordinary in Mr. Stanbope's statement. I don't like that concession to Lancashire; it is not a sign of bravery at all. There is no real and honest attempt to deal with finance on any broad basis. Every body wants something—Madras is set off against Bengal and both against Bombay, and it is said that India is lightly taxed. The License Tax will not be the end of what Mr. Bright would have called the fancy taxes, and I fear that it will be no light matter. I might tell you of the members running away from London on the very eve of the reading of the Budget not to Spithead alone, but off for the year. But where's the good? We are too much interested just now in the greater acquisition of Cyprus to think unduly on India. Cyprus, one idiot writes, will be the brightest jewel in the crown.

All England is now preparing for a stern party fight. The Liberals busy everywhere organizing and the Tories are doing the same. If Lord Beaconsfield can appeal to the national feeling of interference in European politics he will stand a good chance, and Mr. Gladstone's great speeches will only help him the more. But Liberals are trying hard to shift the blame.

AN ENGLISHMAN.

THE ROAD CESS DEFALCATIONS IN NUDDEA.

II

FROM OUR KRISHNAGORE CORRESPONDENT.

The more closely we study the facts of the defalcations from the Road Cess Fund of the Nuddea Treasury, the more we are taken aback by the magnitude of the fraud, committed under a highly culpably lax system for which not an individual officer, but every one, directly or indirectly connected with the working of the Road Cess Department, is to blame. The official reports submitted on this case, by Mr. Boyce, Examiner P. W. Accounts, Bengal, and by Mr. Stevens, the late Collector and Magistrate of Nuddea, disclose a state of things too hideous to be looked at and in the words of *Macbeth*, the responsible officers might well exclaim, "I am afraid of what I have done; to look at it again I dare not!" So much by way of exordium. Now let us turn to the facts of the case.

When Sir George Campbell was the lord of Belvedere, it was, in April 1872, the Road Cess Department was first ushered into existence in our district. A committee composed of respectable and educated natives and non-official Europeans was formed at the head-quarters with the District Magistrate as its chairman and with 5 branches at Meherpore, Kushtea, Ranaghat, Bongong, Chooadanga. At this stage of its existence, it had no other function to perform than to allot budget grants for the Road Cess Works done by the Officers of the P. W. Department, and to supervise the Kutcha Road Works of villages. From 1872 to the end of 1873 it had no *outdoor* establishment and Bani Gopal was the only man in the Office who used to keep and prepare all the necessary accounts for the committee. Early in 1873 five sub-overseers were appointed to supervise village Road Works under those 5 branch committees in the sub-divisions. The allotment sanctioned for village Road Works was not more than Rs. 10,000, being the amount of collection from the House Cess in the district. In addition to those 5 sub-overseers, two more overseers were appointed in 1875, one to supervise Kutcha Road Works in the head-quarters and the other to be placed at the disposal of the Executive Engineer of the P. W. Department. All this took place while Col. Forbes was the executive Engineer of the district under whom all the Road Cess Works were executed. He was succeeded in December 1874 by Mr. Newvill, who remained in office till 1st October 1875 when, under the orders of Sir Richard Temple, a new organization of the Road Cess Department was ordered and Babu Dwarka Nath Sircar, a native Engineer, was appointed head of the Department. With the disestablishment of the P. W. Department the P. W. D. ceased to exist in this district, so far as it had connection with the Road Cess Work, which now virtually came under the supervision of a man wholly responsible for the Department. From 1872 to the date of the appointment of Babu Dwarka Nath Sircar, Bani Gopal, as stated in my previous letter, forged 69 cheques which originally stood for Rs. 739-4-8 afterwards altered into Rs. 61,610-5 8. Of this large amount, considerable sum was passed and defalcated during the famine year 1874, when a large sum of money was expended on famine works. Previous to this year, Banigopal had, having connection with the Public Works Department, drawn false cheques occasionally, on the occasion of drawing pay for the servants of the local Dak Banglow Establishment or when drawing the pay of the *malees* or other charges, in connection with the planting rows of trees by the Hanskalee road side. Mr. Stevens in his report exculpates the local treasury accountant and the treasury officer from the blame of all complicity in the matter. But the question is how did these extensive frauds escape the scrutiny of the Accountant General's office? The following points are worth noting:

1st, that in 1876, when the Accountant General sent back a large number of cheques to be signed by the vice-chairman whose signatures were not taken at the first instance, none of them happened to be a forged one, although since the discovery of the fraud, more than 80 false cheques have been returned for the examination of Mr. Boyce, Examiner, P. W. Accounts.

(2) As stated by Mr. Boyce, in his report, more than 90 cheques are not forthcoming from the Accountant General's office, and probably they are missing.

(3) Notwithstanding palpable signs of forgery on those cheques, and their suspicious character, those cheques have been passed by the local treasury and the Accountant General's office.

During this period, the Examiner of the P. W. Accounts had nothing to do with the examination of Bani Gopal's accounts and was therefore not at all responsible for these defalcations and forgeries.

In addition to 69 cheques for Rs. 61, 610-5-8 forged from 1872 to July 1875, 4 more cheques for Rs. 8605 were forged, probably from July 1875 to December of the same year. Besides these, were those missing 90 cheques found out, the amount now ascertained to have been forged and defalcated might greatly exceed the actual amount. Had Bani Gopal remained satisfied with the money thus defalcated, and stopped short in his career of robbery, there would have been no chance of his being detected now as the accounts of the period in question had been accepted and passed and virtually closed by the higher authorities. But his ambition led him to commit more forgeries which ultimately resulted in his detection.

We now turn to this period and see how he committed his forgeries and ultimately was detected.

Mr. Stevens in his official report, states that from 3rd December 1875 to 5th January 1877, Bani Gopal forged 7 cheques for Rs. 13 each, afterwards altered into Rs. 15401. Their dates and the amounts are as follows:—

	Rs.
3rd of December 1875	2820
6th of January 1876.	2200
26th of February ,, ...	2100
17th of April ,, ...	1610
15th of July ,, ...	2000
19th of August ,, ...	2120
5th of January 1877.	2521
	15401

Of these 7 cheques, three of the 6th of January 1876, 26th February of 1876 and 15th July 1876, have been found missing from the Accountant General's office. Strange to say that while the cheques bearing dates prior and subsequent to those of the missing cheques have been sent back, the cheques of intermediate time are missing! Mr. Stevens says that, on the 8th of June 1877 he received from the Accountant General's Office a statement shewing a discrepancy between the balance as shewn in the Road Cess account and that exhibited in the Accountant General's books, amounting to Rs. 14802-13-1. Shortly afterwards, an investigation was made by Baboo Dwarka Nath to find out the discrepancy, and as the account of the Road Cess Office was apparently all smooth and square on the surface he failed to find any from the records of the office. At last he was advised by Mr Stevens to compare the Road Cess Office account with that of the treasury; and this done, the forgery was detected. Mr. Stevens in his reports absolves Baboo Dwarka Nath from all blame. He had no means of knowing what Banigopal had been doing unless he took the trouble of comparing the Road Cess Account with that of the treasury. But he could not have done all this, without some sort of suspicion on Banigopal. The daily advices which were received from the treasury, were generally received by Banigopal himself and strange to say those advices used to come to the office in a mutilated and scratched form containing not the forged amount but the very same amount for which the cheques were originally drawn.

The Road Cess Office had no separate pass-book from 1872 to 1875, and even during the incumbency of Baboo Dwarka the pass-book was prepared from the advices daily received. Mr. Stevens in his report says that the inspection of the Road Cess Office accounts by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Moore, Assistant Examiner of P. W. Accounts was of no value in as much as it increased and induced "a *sense of false security*."

In the same report Mr. Stevens takes the responsibility from the shoulders of Baboo Judoo Nath Roy Bahadoor upon himself. That the Vice-Chairman is not at all to blame in the matter is clear from the confessions of Mr. Stevens.

In this way, a systematic course of robbery went on, for a series of years without suspicion and detection. What was the business of every body was the business of nobody. The Board of Revenue in submitting their reports recount the past meritorious services of Mr. Stevens and other officers concerned in extenuation of their fault. Without making any comments on this case we anxiously await the decision of Government.

BHOWNUGGUR.

SIR,—You are aware that two of your able contemporaries in Bengal the *Indian Mirror* and the *Statesman* have published a series of letters disclosing the grievances of the people of Bhownuggur. Your contemporaries have also been good enough to espouse the cause of suffering humanity, and to urge the Government to institute an enquiry into the charges brought against the present administration of that State. Unfortunately, however, Government has as yet taken no notice of the matter and as things are every day getting worse in Bhownuggur may I, as an inhabitant of Bhownuggur on behalf of my distressed countrymen, request the favor of your taking up our cause and use your powerful pen with a view to remove our grievances. Bhownuggur is a most important Native State in Kattiwar. Thakore Tukhsingjee is the ruler of this principality. The young chief attained his majority only a few months ago. During his minority the State was placed under the joint administration of the British Government and Mr. Govarishankar Udeshankar. Under this joint administration the State improved in every respect, and the subjects were contented. Justice was administered impartially, nobody's rights were infringed, property was safe, education spread, wealth increased and the people were happy. All this prosperity which the people enjoyed was greatly due to the energy and administrative ability of that upright, honest and good old gentleman Mr. Govarishankar Udeshankar and the British authorities. But the people were not destined to enjoy that prosperity for a long time. Old age rendered Mr. Govarishankar almost infirm, and his nephew Mr. Samaldass Parmanandass gradually encroached upon the authority of his uncle till he virtually became the *karbari*, while the former retained only the name. In the meantime the Thakore attained his majority and the British Government withdrew its control, and transferred the administration to the legitimate Ruler of the principality. This is a short sketch of the past. I shall now come to the living present. The Thakore is an amiable Prince of great promise. He received an English education in the Rajkote College, and has the good of his subjects at heart. Yet his subjects are discontented. The thing is had he the knowledge of the grievances of his subjects and had he, at the same time, the power to remove them, I am inclined to believe that he would neither have lost a moment nor spared any pains to remove those grievances. This may seem paradoxical to your readers. But the fact is already stated in the columns of some of your contemporaries, both in Bengal and Bombay, that taking advantage of the extreme old age of Mr. Govarishankar Udeshankar and the inexperience and entire confidence of the young Thakore, Mr. Samaldass Parmanandass has usurped the reins of Government and is by no means giving satisfaction. The antecedents of Mr. Samaldass Parmanandass have been fully described by "An eye-witness" in the columns of the *Indian Mirror*. He was a Fouzdar in the service of the British Government on a salary of about Rs. 50 a month, but why was he dismissed? Fifteen years after, Sir, we find this man wielding the destinies of over four hundred thousand human beings! For he it is who is the virtual Ruler of the principality of Bhownuggur at the present moment. What good could the people of Bhownuggur expect at the hands of such a man? What wonder that they should groan under his administration? But this is not all. A few years ago one Mr. Vidyaram Motiram was a servant of the British Government, how did his career end? Was he declared unfit to hold any public employment? As fate would have it, this very man is now the Chief Justice of Bhownugger. Under the auspices of such a high Priest of Justice is it a wonder, Sir, that justice should have fled the land? Sir, I shall not tire the patience of your readers by reiterating all those statements which have already appeared in the columns of your contemporaries, but allow me to say that the state of affairs in Bhownugger urgently calls for a sifting enquiry, and the British Government as the Paramount Power should not waste a moment to institute such an inquiry. There is one fact, however, which I cannot refrain from mentioning here. Strange though it may seem to your readers and yourself, it is a fact nevertheless that the Political Agent in Kattywar has passed a resolution that whoever shall send any petition to the Government against Mr. Samaldass Paramandass shall be criminally prosecuted at Bhownugger. Comments on this, Sir, are perfectly unnecesarry. Yet as there are other facts in connection with this one which need disclosure and call for comment, I shall revert to it in a future letter.

The generality of my countrymen, Sir, are stupid and ignorant. They have not yet learnt how to represent their grievances to the Paramount Power. Those who are in power in the State are viewed by them with abject awe and veneration. While groaning under oppression they resign themselves to their fate and suffer patiently. If goaded into desperation any of them dare oppose the sweet wills of the powers that be woe be to them! Their position becomes worse and they are harrassed and persecuted till they are utterly vanquished. My humble self and a few others who have received an English education have resolved, however, at the risk of our life and property to bring to light the numerous wrongs which are inflicted upon us, and, Sir, seek your generous aid in this righteous though dangerous attempt of ours. This letter is but a preliminary one, and as it has already grown long I shall close here praying and hoping that you will grant me a similar indulgence in a next issue.

Yours &c.,
JUSTICIA.

Bhownuggur 10th September 1878.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS

	Rs.	A.	P.
Chairman *District Road Cess Committee, Pubna...*	2	0	0
Dyan Procash Press, Poona	13	4	0
Moulvi Azizar Rohomon, Tezpore	13	8	0
Kumar Kaisar Shingh Bahadoor, Tehree	13	8	0
Baboo Issanchunder Kumor, Ghatshilla	10	0	0
,, Sreeram Chatterjee, Saknara	6	10	0
,, Mohendranath Banerjee, Shillong	6	10	0
,, Dwarkanath Bagchee, Rungpore	13	4	0
,, Monohurrylal Shome, Chinsurah	2	0	0
,, Banymadub Roy, Banda	10	0	0
,, Lalgopal Sen, Arrah	10	0	0
,, Doorgapersad Mookerjee, Goruckpore	13	4	0
,, Kylashchunder Chatterjee, Contai	5	0	0
,, Ombicachurn Chatterjee, Kharackpore	5	0	0
,, Robichunder Ganguly, Azimgunge	15	0	0
,, Jogothdoorlub Banerjee, Khagole	3	6	0
,, Okhoychunder Ghose, Dacca	6	10	0
,, Poornochunder Ghose, Manickgunge	13	0	0
,, Guruchurn Bose, Berhampore	13	0	0

ERRATUM.

For ,, Gopalkrisna Dey, Sylhet, Rs. 10 read Rupees 6 10

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*September* 18, 1878.

GENERAL.—Pundit Srish Chunder Bidyarutna, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Howrah, is allowed leave for twelve days, with effect from the 23rd September next, under the rules in Chapter VII of the civil Leave Code.

Baboo Juggo Bundhoo Khan, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Maldah, is allowed leave for two months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 23rd June last.

Moulvi Fyzoola Khan, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector Chittagong, is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. K. G. Gupta, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Perozepore in Backergunge, is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from such date as he may be relieved.

Mr. F. E. Pargiter is appointed to act, until further orders, in the Second Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors in Dacca, with effect from the date on which he was relieved of his temporary acting appointment as Magistrate and Collector of that district.

Mr. Pargiter is transferred to Backergunge, and is appointed to have charge of the Perozepore division of that district.

Mr. F. W. J. Rees, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Moorshedabad, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. J. G. Veasey, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Moorshedabad, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. F. W. J. Rees, or until further orders.

POLICE.—Baboo Jadub Chunder Deb, Inspector of Police, Southal Pergunnahs, is appointed to act, until further orders, as an Assistant Superintendent of Police, and is posted to Burdwan.

The services of Mr. W. C. Fasson, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, 24-Pergunnahs, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

EDUCATION.—Baboo Madhav Chundra Goswami, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Second Grade. was employed as a temporary Deputy Inspector of Schools of the First Grade from the 28th February to the 31st March 1878, inclusive, *vice* Baboo Raj Krishna Roy Chowdhuri.

Baboo Baikantha Nath Roy, B.A. Deputy Inspector of Schools, of the Third Grade, was employed as a temporary Deputy Inspector of Schools of the Second Grade from the 28th February to the 31st March 1878, inclusive, *vice* Baboo Madhav Chandra Goswami.

Baboo Baikantha Nath Roy is appointed temporarily to be a Deputy Inspector of Schools of the Second Grade with effect from the 5th April 1878, during the absence, on deputation, of Baboo Ambika Churn Bosu, or until further orders.

MEDICAL.—Surgeon J. F. Mullen, Officiating Civil Surgeon, Bhagulpore, is appointed to act as Resident Physician of the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, and as Professor of Pathology in the Medical College, during the absence, on deputation, of Surgeon J. F. P. McDonnell, or until further orders.

JUDICIAL.—Moulvi Abdul Aziz, Moonsif of Behar, is appointed to act as Additional Subordinate Judge of Patna till the ensuing Dusserah vacation.

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Chuckerbutty, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Atia division of the Mymensing district, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the First Class.

Baboo Srigopal Chatterjee, Extra Moonsif of Dewangunge in the district of Noakholly, is appointed to act as Moonsif of Begumgunge, in that district, from the re-opening of the civil courts after the Dusserah, until the return from leave of Baboo Okhoy Coomar Bose.

Baboo Koylash Chunder Mozoomdar, Additional Moonsif of Jehanabad, in the district of Bardwan, is transferred to Moolfutgunge, in the district of Furreedpore.

Baboo Mohendra Nath Mittra, B.L., Moonsif of Moolfutgunge, in the district of Fureedpore is appointed to be an Additional Moonsif in the district of Burdwan, *vice* Koylash Chunder Mozoomdar.

Baboo Gopee Mohun Mookerjee, B.L., Moonsif of Gungarampore, is appointed to be Second Moonsif of Dinagepore with effect from the date of the abolition of the Gungarampore Moonsifee. He will continue to be also additional Moonsif at Maldah.

Baboo Kali Coomar Bose, B.L., Moonsif of Beergunge, in Dinagepore, is appointed to be Second Moonsif of Bogra, in the district of Rungpore, with effect from the date of the abolition of the Moonsifee at Beergunge.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MOONSIFS.—Baboo Chunder Prosunno Dutt, Moonsif of Balasore, in the district of Cuttack, has been allowed leave of absence for the ensuing Dusserah vacation, under Rule 1, Section 31 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 26th September 1878.

Moulvi Guzeffer Ali, Moonsif of Lohardugga, in the province of Chota Nagpore, has been allowed leave of absence for one month, under Rule 1 Section 31 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 26th September 1878.

Baboo Hurkumar Roy, Second Moonsif of Chittagong, has been allowed leave of absence for the ensuing Dusserah vacation, under Rule 1, Section 31 of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Gokool Chand, Moonsif of Arrareah, in the district of Purneah, has been allowed leave of absence for two months, under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code,

Baboo Tara Prosonno Ghose, Second Moonsif of Netrokonah, in the district of Mymensingh, has been allowed leave of absence for the ensuing Dusserah vacation, under Rule 1, Section 31 of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. C. G. Lewis, Moonsif of Monghyr, in the district of Bhagulpore has been allowed leave of absence for the Dusserah vacation, under Rule 1, Section 31 of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Kristo Persad Chowdry, Third Moonsif of Mooradnuggur, in the district of Tipperah, has been allowed leave of absence for the ensuing Dusserah vacation under Rule 1 Section 31 of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Karunamoy Banerjee, Moonsif of Palamow, in the province of Chota Nagpore, has been allowed leave of absence for the ensuing Dusserah vacation under Rule 1, Section 31 of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Sibo Dass Mookerjee, Moonsif of Gungajulghattee, in the district of West Burdwan, has been allowed 30 day's leave of absence in the ensuing Dusserah vacation, under Rule 1, Section 31 of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Ramyad Lall, Moonsif of Tajpore, in Tirhoot, having availed himself from the 5th June last of a portion of the leave of absence for three months granted to him on the 20th May, and having resumed charge of his office on the afternoon of the 2nd instant, the unexpired portion of the (two days) is cancelled.

Advertisements.

Notice.

The 9th September 1878.

Notice is hereby given that the Government steamer *Pioneer*, which has been plying experimentally as a passenger vessel with a passenger boat in tow between Cuttack and Chandbally and *vice versa* will continue to ply, until further notice, between those places, taking up and setting down passengers, &c., at intermediate stations on the way.

The time of starting from Cuttack and Chandbally, and the fares and rates for goods, are noted below.

The *Pioneer* will leave the Jobra Lock Ghaut, from and after the 1st August 1878, every Tuesday, and Chandbally Ghaut every Thursday, at 4 P.M., but the time of leaving Chandbally will be modified to suit the arrival of the Calcutta steamer.

FARES CUTTACK TO CHANDBALLY.

1st class passengers Rs. 25, including two servants and four maunds luggage.

2nd class passengers Rs. 10, including one servant and two maunds luggage.

3rd class passengers Rs. 2 including one servant and half maund luggage.

Packages will be charged at rates ranging from 4 annas to one rupee each according to size; but bales and large light cases will be charged by measurement, at Rs. 7 per ton of 50 cubic feet.

Heavy packages of small bulk at Rs. 7 per ton of 28 maunds. Palkee on deck Rs. 5.

FARES TO INTERMEDIATE STATIONS.

	1st Class. Rs. A. P.	2nd Class. Rs. A. P.	3rd Class. Rs. A. P.
Cuttack to Jagutpore ...	1 0 0	0 8 0	0 1 0
Ditto to Barbaria ...	2 0 0	1 0 0	0 2 0
Ditto to Kendupatna ...	5 0 0	2 0 0	0 5 0
Ditto to Dhanpore ...	7 0 0	3 0 0	0 7 0
Ditto to Kendrapara ...	8 0 0	4 0 0	1 0 0
Ditto to Patamundee ...	12 0 0	5 0 0	1 0 0
Ditto to Hunsua ...	16 0 0	7 0 0	1 0 0
Ditto to Chandbally ...	25 0 0	10 0 0	2 0 0

To intermediate places between those shown above no extra fare will be charged,

The above rates are for passage only on board the steamer *Pioneer*; but a khansamah with cooking utensils and crockery will be maintained on board, who will make his own charges for messing 1st and 2nd class passengers, the former not to exceed Rs. 3 and the latter Re. 1½ per diem per head. First class passengers are prohibited hereafter from making their own arrangements.

Goods for the present will only be booked for Cuttack, Kendupatna, Kendrapara, Patamundee, Hunsua, and Chandbally at the following rates:

RATES FOR PACKAGES.

	Rs. A. P.
Cuttack to Kendupatna, as. 1 to 4 according to size; per ton	1 8 0
Ditto to Kendrapara „ 2 to 6 ditto ditto ...	2 4 0
Ditto to Patamundee „ 3 to 8 ditto ditto ...	3 8 0
Ditto to Hunsua „ 4 to 12 ditto ditto ...	5 8 0
Ditto to Chandbally „ 4 to Re. 1 ditto ditto ...	7 6 0

From Chandbally to Cuttack the fares and rates for goods will be the same as those shown above from Cuttack to Chandbally.

RATES AND FARES TO INTERMEDIATE STATIONS.

	Packages, each,	Per ton	1st class	2nd class	3rd class
	Ans.	Rs. A	Rs. A.	Rs. A	Rs. A.
Chandbally to Hunsua	1 to 4	1 8	5 9	2 0	0 5
Ditto to Patamundee	2 to 6	3 4	12 0	5 0	0 12
Ditto to Kendrapara	3 to 8	4 0	16 0	7 0	1 0
Ditto to Dhanpore ...	.....	.....	18 0	8 0	1 2
Ditto to Kendupatna	4 to 12	5 8	20 0	9 0	1 8
Ditto to Cuttack ...	4 to Re. 1	7 0	25 0	10 0	2 0

No extra charges will be made for passengers or goods being landed at intermediate places between those noted above.

The steamer has accomodation for four first class and 30 third class or deck passengers, and the boat for six second class and ten third class or deck passengers.

The Government do not hold themselves responsible for delay, detention, or unforeseen accidents, but every effort will be made to ensure safety and keep good time, and avoidance of detention or delay in going to and returning from Chandbally.

D. B. HORN,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt, of Bengal,
in the P. W. D. Irrigation Branch.

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For darkening the Hair without dying it.
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General Court of Directors.
Right Hon'ble Lord Lawrence, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., & P.C., Chairman.

Report by the Directors
PRESENTED TO THE
Sixty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Company
Held at Edinburgh on Friday, 5th April 1878.

The Directors submit the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December last :—

Life Business.

During the year 1877 there have been issued 1026 Policies, assuring £1,003.580, the new Premiums on which amount to £32,049: 10: 5.

The Claims which occurred during the year, including 10 Endowments, were 280 in number, arising under 341 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amount with Bonus additions, to the sum of £299,863: 10: 6.

As will be seen from the State of Affairs annexed, the Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,711,876:11:7, being £105,446: 17: 10 above what it was on 31st December 1876. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

After paying the Dividend, the Reserve Fund will amount to £794,576: 19: 11, and the Premium Reserve to £302,671, 8s. 5d., together amounting to £1,017,248: 8: 4. At 31st December 1876 these Funds amounted to £1,082,768: 11: 10, showing an increase this year of £14,479: 16: 6.

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Rev. Mother of St. Joseph's Convent, Baudora, Bombay Presidency, writes:

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I remain, Yours truly, SISTER THEODORINE,
Superioress F. de la Croix.

Gentlemen,—I herewith send you the value and shall feel obliged by your sending me by post another bottle (large size) of the Infallible Pain-Curer. I find that the medicine is doing me great deal of good.

CHINTAMAN SAKHARAM CHITNIS Subordinate Judge,
Kaira, Guzrath, Bombay Presidency.

Dear Sirs,—Your Infallible Pain-Curer, which was sent to Baboo Rajkisore Chatterjee, Toondla, has done him good, and he writes me to send him another bottle as early as possible. Will you have the goodness to send up without delay another bottle (large size) of the same sort you forwarded last time to him.

Yours faithfully,
KISORY MOHUN CHATTERJEE, 4 Fairlie Place, Calcutta.

Gentlemen,—Lately I had taken from you a bottle of your famous "No More Pains" which has almost relieved me of all my pains. I beg to enclose a remittance in postage stamps, and hope you will be pleased to send me another bottle of the same medicine.

Yours faithfully, RAJENDRO NATH CHATTERJEE, Hallisahar Khasbatty, *via* Kanchraparah, Camp Rungown.

Gentlemen,—I enclose Telegraph Stamps, and beg you will kindly send me another bottle of your "Infallible Pain-Curer," which is undoubtedly worthy of its name.

Yours faithfully.
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